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For Immediate Release

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BayRides Launches Two New Vehicles**

On March 16, 2019, TD Bank kindly hosted the official “unveiling” of two additions to the BayRides fleet of vehicles. Peter Delefes, President of BayRides, opened the event with a few remarks about the affordable service BayRides offers. “The new accessible bus will accommodate a minimum of 12 passengers and two people in wheel chairs,” he explained. “Based on the life span of the old bus, which has already been sold, the new bus should be in service for about 15 years,” he said. “Both the bus and the new Dodge Caravan are essential additions to our fleet. Currently we are driving at least 50 people a day and that number is increasing. Last year our vehicles covered 90,000 km. This year we expect to reach 170,000 km.”

Delefes stressed that BayRides, a not-for-profit organization, was able to purchase both these new vehicles thanks to funding from the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program of the NS Department of Municipal Affairs and from the HRM District Capital Fund, along with funds generated through BayRides partnership in the Bay Treasure Chest. He made a point of acknowledging the support of MLA Hugh MacKay and Councillor Matt Whitman who were both in attendance.

In his brief speech, Hugh MacKay, MLA for Chester-St. Margaret’s, said “it was a great day to see this expansion of BayRides.” He mentioned that after he and his wife decided to be environmentally sensitive and become a one car family, they both started using BayRides on a regular basis. “I’m particularly pleased to hear that BayRides plans to extend its hours to connect with the MetroX Bus in the evening,” he said.

Hammonds Plains-St. Margaret’s Councillor Matt Whitman stressed his support for the vision of BayRides. “Having spent four months in a wheel chair, I am very conscious of the importance of accessible vehicles,” he said.

After the speeches, Patty King, Executive Director of BayRides, invited everyone to go outside to watch MLA Hugh MacKay and Councillor Matt Whitman cut the ceremonial blue ribbon beside the new bus and the new van. BayRides now has four vehicles to help serve the growing transportation needs of St. Margaret’s Bay residents.

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**PHOTO:** Hugh MacKay, MLA for Chester-St. Margaret's, and Matt Whitman, Councillor for Hammonds Plains-St. Margaret's, are shown here at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially launch BayRides new Dodge Caravan and new accessible bus.