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Stranded crew low on food;

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The situation is getting desperate for 44 crew members of a Russian ship stranded in St. John's harbour, a union spokesman says.

"They have nine or 10 days' supply for fuel, and only two days' supply of food," Gerard Bradbury said of the crew of the MV Lyubov Orlova which arrived in St. John's on Sept. 27.

The ship, owned by Russian-based Losco Shipping, was chartered by Canadian company Cruise North Expeditions Inc. for adventure tourism trips to the Canadian Arctic.

Canadian officials placed the ship under arrest when it arrived in St. John's because the owner owes Cruise North \$250,000.

No passengers were on-board when it was arrested. Bradbury said they are hoping the sale of the ship will come through sometime today, and the workers will be sent home.

The crew members, who make an average of \$1,000 a month say they haven't been paid in months. Bradbury said the total owed to them is approximately \$321,000.

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