

Postmedia News

Situation worsening for Russian sailors stranded in St. John's.

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

Gerard Bradbury is an inspector with the International Transport Workers Federation who was contacted by the crew after the MV Lyubov Orlova arrived in St. John's on September 27.

"They have nine or 10 days' supply for fuel, and only two days' supply of food," Bradbury said Thursday.

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.

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

There were 51 crewmembers originally on-board, but six went home after family members paid their way.

One of them, who was pregnant, left to fly home on Thursday.

Bradbury said there's at least one other worker on-board with a medical condition requiring monitoring and treatment.

Bradbury said they're hoping negotiations for the sale of the ship will come through sometime today, and the workers will be sent home.