



ST. JOHN'S
International Airport Authority

For Immediate Release

News Release

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Airport Authority to Review Mediator's Recommendations

Careful review will be conducted to ensure wage & business issues are appropriately addressed

ST. JOHN'S, NL, Friday, June 21, 2013 – The Minister of Labour, Lisa Raitt, has written the Airport Authority and PSAC advising that she has requested the two federally-appointed mediators assigned to the ongoing negotiations to provide comprehensive recommendations to both parties to settle the current strike, now into its tenth month. The Authority appreciates the Minister's interest in this matter, and will carefully review the Mediators' recommendations when received to ensure they adequately address the issues important to the Airport's future.

“We remain committed to negotiating a fair and balanced collective agreement that addresses the interests of our employees, while ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of our Airport,” said Keith Collins, CEO of the Airport Authority. “We will review the Mediators' recommendations carefully within this context when we receive it to ensure this desired balance is appropriately addressed.”

Of particular importance is the proposed wage package. As the second largest airport in Atlantic Canada, the Authority has proposed that its employees will be the second highest paid airport employees in Atlantic Canada. PSAC, however, has proposed wage parity with the larger Halifax Airport, a wage level that is unreasonable and beyond the financial capacity of the Authority. The most recent round of negotiations was unsuccessful in bridging this wage gap, and also failed to reach agreement on key business issues raised by the Authority.

“It is important that any recommendations by the federal Mediators to produce a tentative agreement and an end to this strike must deal effectively with these unresolved matters. As an Airport Authority, we are responsible to operate this gateway in a safe, cost-efficient manner on behalf of the community we serve. To accept any proposals that limit our ability to meet this mandate would not be responsible”, added Collins.

St. John's International Airport Authority is a private, not-for-profit organization with the mandate to provide the region with a safe, cost-efficient transportation facility that is a catalyst for economic growth. Under the provisions of a long-term Ground Lease with the Federal Government of Canada, the Airport Authority is responsible for the airport's operations on behalf of the community it serves.