

News Release

Growth trend continues at St. John's International Airport

The number of passengers travelling through the Airport grew by 4.3 per cent in 2016

- **Close to 1.6 million passengers travelled through St. John's International Airport in 2016**
- **4.3 per cent growth in travelers, with a corresponding 5 per cent increase in airline seat capacity**
- **836,000 passengers traveled through the Airport between the months of May and September, making it the busiest summer in the Airport's history**
- **40 per cent growth in airline seat capacity since 2008**

St. John's, NL, Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – St. John's International Airport Authority experienced a 4.3 per cent growth in passenger traffic in 2016, with close to 1.6 million people travelling through its gates last year. This increase in passenger volume was particularly strong between May and September, making it the busiest summer in the Airport's history.

"Our region continues to prosper as a popular destination for both leisure and business travellers. With developments such as the newly expanded St. John's Convention Centre and upcoming events such as the Tim Horton's Brier Cup, we look forward welcoming more guests to our province in 2017," said Marie Manning, Director of Marketing and Business Development.

Since 2008, airline seat capacity at St. John's International Airport has grown by 40 per cent. This includes a 5 per cent growth in 2016 with the addition of more frequent flights, more destinations served and new airlines entering the market. The greatest growth last year was experienced in both domestic and international markets, including additional flight options to Toronto and Montreal; year-round service to Orlando; and the addition of WestJet's seasonal daily service to London Gatwick. The Airport is the only one of its size in North America to offer three daily European flights during the summer months: WestJet to Dublin; WestJet to London Gatwick; Air Canada to London Heathrow (year-round service).

"We will continue to work with our airline partners and community stakeholders in the business and tourism sectors to support existing air services and to encourage airlines to invest in new routes that will support the growth of tourism and trade in our community," added Marie Manning.

St. John's International Airport is served by 8 commercial airlines, providing direct air services to 24 domestic, transborder and international destinations. During the winter/spring sun charter season of 2017, 9 sun destinations in Florida and the Caribbean will be available through Sunwing Airlines, WestJet Airlines and Air Transat. For the first time in more than 15 years, passengers travelling to the very popular Tampa Bay area in Florida will be able to avail of direct, weekly air service being offered by WestJet Airlines to Tampa International Airport.

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.

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