

**ST. JOHN'S**  
*International Airport Authority*

**For Immediate Release**

## **News Release**

### **Primary Runway Reopened to Full Length**

*Electrical and Civil Work Completed on Time and on Budget*

- Full length (8,500 feet) of Runway 11/29 (primary runway) is open for operations
- Electrical and civil work completed on time and on budget
- 2 per cent of all flights were impacted due to unavailability of primary runway during construction, which is much less than the anticipated 5 per cent
- NAV Canada has installed Instrument Landing System equipment and is currently completing certification of equipment
- Next milestone – CAT 3 Instrument Landing Systems to be operational in 2016

**St. John's, NL, Thursday, December 3, 2015** – St. John's International Airport Authority announced today that it has met its latest construction milestone as part of the three-year Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative with the reopening of its primary runway to its full length of 8,500 feet. NAV Canada has completed the installation of the Instrument Landing System equipment, and is in the process of having it certified. This final phase of the project will be completed prior to the spring, foggy season of 2016.

The primary runway was closed on June 1, 2015 to complete the necessary improvements and upgrades to support the installation and operation of Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS) by NAV Canada on both ends of the primary runway. During this construction phase, the primary runway was also repaved, meaning extensive construction work on the runway will not be required for at least 15 years. This phase of the project was completed on time and on budget, and included the following civil and electrical work:

- 25,000 cubic metres of blasted rock
- 14,000 standard dump truck loads of earth and rock removed
- 180,000 square metres of pavement rehabilitated
- 100,000 metres of airfield lighting cable installed
- 1,105 inset lights installed
- 38,000 tonnes of new asphalt
- Runway End Safety Areas installed on both ends of runway
- 1<sup>st</sup> airport in the world to install LED lights on approach towers

Throughout the six-month closure of the primary runway, it was anticipated that five per cent of all flights would be disrupted due to the unavailability of the primary runway for flight operations. However, the construction project resulted in only two per cent of all flights disrupted, and the majority of these (80 per cent) occurred during the critical construction phase in July when work was being completed on the intersection of both the

*Primary Runway Reopened, Cont'd.*

primary and secondary runways, and persistent low visibility weather conditions occurred that was atypical for July.

“We are very pleased to be completed the construction phase of this significantly important project for our city and our province. The extensive improvements that have been made will result in a substantially improved level of service, and the benefits for our airline partners and passengers will be enjoyed for many years to come,” said Peter Avery, Director of Infrastructure and Planning with St. John’s International Airport Authority. “I would like to thank all those who worked on this the project for their professionalism, skill and dedication that ensured it was completed on schedule and on budget, and in a safe manner. This includes our contractors - Pyramid, Tristar, and Black and McDonald; and our engineering consultants - WSP and MHPM. I would also like to acknowledge NAV Canada for their commitment and investment in this project.”

Once CAT 3 ILS are operational, St. John’s International Airport will be the fourth airport in Canada to utilize this technology, and the only airport with less than 10 million passengers annually. This technology will allow aircraft to land and take-off in conditions of very low visibility; a weather challenge that has had an impact on the Airport’s operation and the region’s reputation for years.

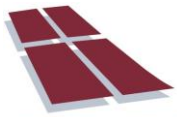
The Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative is a \$37.3 million project that is cost shared between the Airport Authority, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada, through Canada’s Gateways and Border Crossing Fund in support of the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy.

Further information about the Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative can be found on the Airport Authority’s website (<http://stjohnsairport.com/expansion-yyt/>) including a video showcasing the construction on the primary runway, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1jAVaa6>

***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.

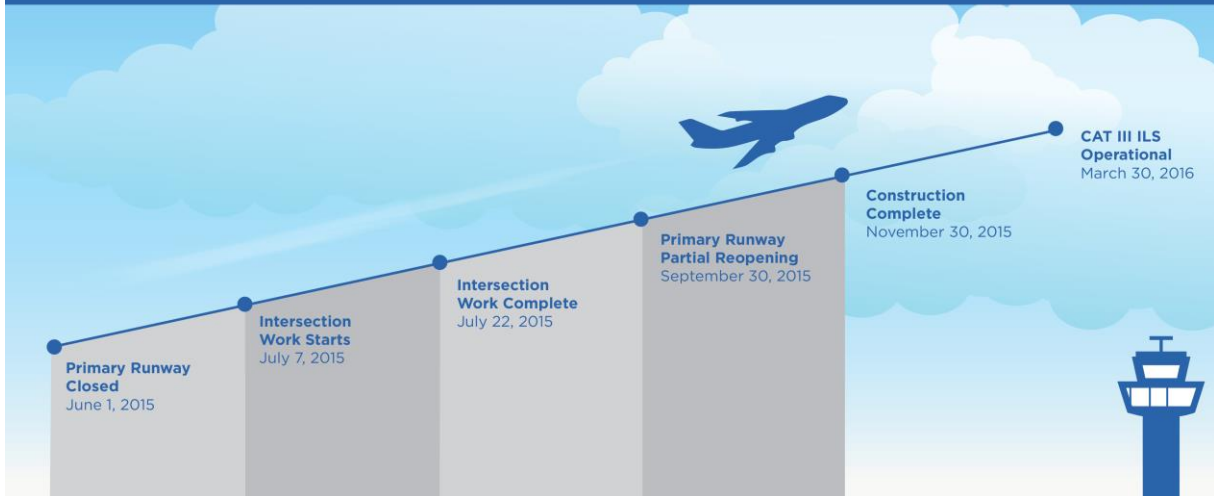
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## Airfield Accessibility & Safety Initiative (Year 3)



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EXPANSION **WY**T

