



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

**For Immediate Release**

## **News Release**

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### **Passenger Traffic Reaches Record High at St. John's International Airport**

*The number of passengers travelling through the Airport in 2011 reached a new record high of approximately 1.4 million; a 4% increase over the previous year.*

ST. JOHN'S, NL, Monday, January 23, 2012 – For the second year in a row, St. John's International Airport broke a record for the number of passengers travelling through its airport. In 2011, approximately 1.4 million people travelled through St. John's International Airport, representing a 4% increase over the record set in 2010.

“Our economy is strong, our region is an increasingly popular tourist destination, and greater competition among airlines has resulted in more business and leisure travelers moving through our airport,” said Mr. Keith Collins, President & CEO of St. John's International Airport Authority. “I am also pleased to see that all our airline partners are participating in this growth.”

Since the Airport privatized in 1998, passenger traffic has doubled. In recent years, the Airport Authority has been successful in recruiting new airlines and soliciting new destinations such that the number of available airline seats has increased by 40%. This growth was realized during a period of time when the overall airline seat capacity at all other major airports in Atlantic Canada declined, on average, by 35%.

“Our role as a facilitator to the economic growth of our region by enabling the flow of people and goods to and from our province is one we understand and take very seriously. It is for this reason

that we meet with our stakeholders on a regular basis through our Air Service Development Committee. This allows us to ensure the Authority's air service development strategy continues to meet the growing needs of our community. Where a business case exists, we will aggressively pursue new routes and new airlines to expand service at our airport," added Collins.

There are 80 flights each day to and from St. John's International Airport to twelve (12) destinations that are presently being operated by six airlines (Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, United, Provincial Airlines, and Air Saint Pierre). In addition, Sunwing and Air Transat provide service on a seasonal basis to sun destinations, including Jamaica, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

*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.*