



For Immediate Release

News Release

Record Passenger Numbers Travelling Through St. John's International Airport

Passenger traffic grew by 10 per cent during the summer 2014 season.

ST. JOHN'S, NL, Tuesday, December 2, 2014 – St. John's International Airport experienced its busiest summer to date in 2014 with almost 700,000 passengers travelling through its gates during the June to September peak travel period. This resulted in a 10 per cent increase in passenger traffic compared to 2013. By the end of 2014, it is anticipated that the Airport will have handled approximately 1.6 million passengers, representing another record-breaking year in passenger traffic.

The demand for air travel at St. John's International Airport has consistently grown at unprecedented rates over the last five years, with an average annual growth rate that is more than double the national average. This would not have been possible without the investments made by airlines to add air service to the region. Over this same time period, St. John's International Airport was among the top three airports in Canada for growth in the number of airline seats available for purchase to travel to and from the region. The investments made by airlines to add air service were particularly significant in 2014, and included WestJet's launch of its first transatlantic service that operated between St. John's and Dublin along with additional services to Toronto and Ottawa. Air Canada also extended its London Heathrow service year-round.

This growth trend is projected to continue into 2015 with greater frequencies of flights and new destinations scheduled. These include the following:

- an overall 15 per cent increase in airline seats available to sun destinations that are operated by Air Transat, Sunwing and WestJet;
- an extension of the daily service to Dublin that will begin in early May, six weeks earlier than in 2014; and
- the Air Canada London-Heathrow flight that will operate throughout the entire year.

"Our aggressive air service development strategy has been effective in increasing and improving air services at our Airport. While we continue to present opportunities to airlines to invest in our region, we have also commenced our 10-year expansion plan. The investments being made in our infrastructure will enable

further growth of airline services at our Airport and will support the continued growth of our province,” said Marie Manning, Director of Marketing and Business Development with St. John’s International Airport Authority.

Forecasts for passenger growth indicate that by 2020 there will be close to 2 million passengers travelling through the gates at St. John’s International Airport. Earlier this year the Airport Authority announced its 10-year, \$243 million expansion plan that will result in expanded facilities and increase the usability of the airport in order to accommodate the existing and future demand for air travel. This will allow for further growth in passenger volumes, airline services, and ultimately the economy of the province.

Construction has commenced on doubling the size of the Airport Terminal Building over the next six years, and the Airport Authority is also now completing year two of the three year construction project to make necessary infrastructure improvements to support the installation of a Category III Instrument Landing system on the Airport’s primary runway. Once operational in 2016, the Airport’s usability will increase to 99 per cent, putting it on par with the top eight airports in Canada. These investments will allow further growth in passenger traffic and enhance the Airport’s competitive position against other airports when recruiting airlines.

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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