



For Immediate Release

News Release

Airport Authority Makes Major Progress on its 10-Year Expansion and Improvement Plan

Airfield project to allow new Category III Instrument Landing Systems to be completed in 2015, along with the contract award for the next phase of Airport Terminal Building expansion

- \$20 million invested in 2014 as part of 10-year Expansion & Improvement Plan
- \$50 million planned investment in 2015 in Airport's facilities
- Airport Terminal Building expansion commenced in 2014 and building envelope construction of east expansion (approximately 145,000 ft²) to commence in 2015
- 2015 marks third and final year of construction associated with the \$37.3 million Accessibility & Safety Initiative (ie. Category III Instrument Landing Systems)
- Category III Instrument Landing Systems will be operational in 2016, and will increase usability of the Airport to 99 per cent
- The Airport's primary runway will be closed for approximately five months in 2015 to enable completion of the Accessibility and Safety Initiative
- The Airport's secondary runway has sufficient length to handle all regularly scheduled, commercial aircraft through the construction period in 2015
- While extensive planning and scheduling will help mitigate the impact of 2015 construction on Airport operations, some flights may be impacted due to specific weather conditions
- Once Category III Instrument Landing Systems are operational, St. John's International Airport will be the fourth airport to utilize this technology in Canada, and the only Airport with less than 10 million passengers annually

St. John's, NL, Thursday, March 26, 2015 – St. John's International Airport Authority invested \$20 million in the Airport's infrastructure in 2014 as part of its 10-year, \$245 million Expansion and Improvement Plan that was announced in April 2014. A further \$50 million investment is planned for 2015 that will focus on two of the most significant projects associated with this Plan: the Airport Terminal Building (ATB) Expansion, and the Accessibility and Safety Initiative.

The Expansion and Improvement Plan was established to ensure the safety and operational integrity of the existing facilities; to expand the ATB to accommodate two million passengers annually; and to improve the Airport's accessibility during low-visibility conditions. The completion of this 10-year Plan in 2023 will result in benefits to the entire community and will support the continued growth of the region.

Airport Makes Major Progress on 10-year Plan, cont'd.

During the past year, the first phase of the expansion to the Airport Terminal Building commenced with the laying of the building foundations for the east expansion (approximately 145,000 square feet), to be followed this year with the construction of the building envelope. In addition, during 2014 the Authority made progress on the expansion of parking lots and aprons, and on the increase in electrical and communication capacity to service the expanded ATB.

“We are very pleased to have started the much-needed expansion of our Airport Terminal Building in 2014 with the award of the east foundation project. When the new Airport Terminal Building is complete, I am confident that our community and the travelling public will be delighted with the finished product, and with the range of new features and services available”, said Keith Collins, President & CEO of the St. John’s International Airport Authority. This project will continue in 2015 with the recently awarded contract to Marco Services Limited for the remaining foundations, structural steel and building envelope, to be followed later this year with the tendering and award of all the related packages for building interior completions. This first phase of the ATB expansion is scheduled to be substantially complete in early 2018. In 2017 work will commence on the west ATB expansion project with a scheduled completion by 2021.

2015 also marks the final year of the three-year construction project associated with the Accessibility and Safety Initiative. This project involves substantial improvements and additions to the airfield in order to facilitate the installation and operation of Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS). Once operational in 2016, the usability of the Airport will increase to 99 per cent, putting it on par with the top eight airports in Canada. 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 operations and the region’s reputation for much of its history.

Significant progress has already been made on this initiative. Over the past two years, 120,000 cubic metres of terrain have been removed from the airfield; new approach lighting towers have been installed that are six metres taller than the previous towers; and Runway End Safety Areas (RESAs) have been completed on both ends of the secondary runway (R16-34).

During 2015, the Airport’s primary runway (R11-29) will be closed for a five month period between June and early November to allow the completion of the key components of this major project. These key activities include installation of the new centreline, touchdown zone and edge lighting, completion of turn pads blast pads, completion of RESAs on both ends of the runway, and the repaving of the entire 8,500 foot runway.

“We are excited to be into the home stretch on this strategic initiative that will deliver such remarkable benefits to our region and the entire province”, said Collins. “These new Instrument Landing Systems will strengthen the national and provincial air transportation systems by ensuring greater reliability for air travel in and out of St. John’s, and will facilitate our region’s economic growth. While we have planned for this year’s construction work with the objective of mitigating the impact on the Airport’s flight operations, we anticipate that some flights will be affected during certain weather conditions. This temporary inconvenience for travellers is an unavoidable byproduct of completing the significant runway upgrades that will ensure increased Airport access and reliability for decades to come.”

Airport Makes Major Progress on 10-year Plan, cont'd.

The Airport 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 Crossings Fund in support of the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy. The instrument landing systems technology will be installed and maintained by NAV Canada. Once operational, St. John's International Airport will be the fourth airport to utilize this technology in Canada, and the only Airport with less than 10 million passengers annually.

Further information on the Airport's Expansion and Improvement Plan can be found on the Airport Authority's website (stjohnsairport.com), including a link to a video that outlines the work associated with the Accessibility and Safety Initiative.

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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