



ST. JOHN'S
International Airport Authority

For Immediate Release

News Release

Flights Impacted due to Weather and Runway Construction

Low ceilings resulted in numerous flight cancellations over the weekend

- A total of 42 arriving flights were impacted due to weather and limited runway capability due to construction on the weekend
- Airlines responded on Sunday with additional recovery flights using larger aircraft
- Construction around the intersection of both the primary and secondary runway started last week and is expected to be completed next week
- During construction on the intersection work, the secondary runway is reduced in length to 6000 feet and has limited operational capability during low visibility weather (at least 500 feet ceilings and more than one mile of forward visibility is required)
- While extensive planning and scheduling has helped to mitigate the impact of 2015 construction on Airport operations, some flights may be impacted due to specific weather conditions
- Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS) will be operational in 2016, and will increase usability of the Airport to 99 per cent
- 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, Monday, July 13, 2015 – St. John's International Airport experienced a number of flight disruptions over the weekend due to a combination of weather and reduced capability on the runway as a result of on-going construction. From 8 p.m. Friday evening to early Sunday morning, a total of 42 arriving flights and their subsequent departures were cancelled. Once weather conditions improved early Sunday morning, flight operations continued on schedule and additional recovery flights with larger aircraft were added by the various airlines.

Extensive improvements and additions to the airfield are being done as part of the third and final year of construction associated with the Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative. The primary runway (R11-29) was closed on June 1, 2015 and will remain closed until the end of September, at which time it will open to a reduced length of 6000 feet. On July 7th, runway construction work focused on the area that intersects both the primary and secondary runways, resulting in a reduced runway length of 6000 feet for the secondary runway. This work is on schedule for completion next week. As previously announced, this runway has reduced capability for flight operations during low visibility conditions during this period of time. A ceiling height of 500 feet and a forward visibility of over one mile is required for flight

Flights Impacted, cont'd.

operations during this construction phase. Although forward visibility was not an issue over the weekend, the ceiling heights were well below 500 feet, and at times reaching as low as 100 feet.

Extensive weather analysis was conducted prior to the start of construction to determine the best time period to complete the work and to minimize impacts to flight operations. The weather experienced this past weekend, however, was unprecedented for mid-July and was not conducive for safe flight operations.

Throughout the weekend, the Airport Authority provided live entertainment for passengers in the Airport Terminal Building; vouchers that allowed passengers to obtain a snack at one of the outlets in the Airport Terminal Building; and provided free short-term parking to those dropping off and picking up passengers as an appreciation for their patience while these extensive improvements are being made.

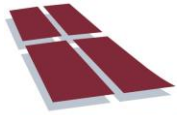
“We understand that it is never a convenient time to close a runway, and we appreciate the impact that this has on families travelling, on visitors to the province, and on the entire community. The work that is being completed this year, however, is necessary to improve the level of service for our airline partners and passengers, and the substantial benefits that will result will be enjoyed for many years to come. It will mean that the flight impacts experienced this weekend due to low visibility will be no more,” said Marie Manning, Director of Marketing and Business Development with St. John’s International Airport Authority.

Once the construction in the intersection area is complete, repaving of the entire 8500 foot runway will commence. All construction on the runway will be completed by the end of November when the newly paved runway will be reopened to full length of 8500 feet.

The new Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS) will be operational in time for the foggy season in 2016 and will increase the usability of the Airport to 99 per cent, putting it on par with all major 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. The substantial improvements and rehabilitation of the runway during 2015 means that no extensive work will be required on this runway for at least fifteen years.

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 and a video of the runway construction can be found on the Airport Authority’s website (stjohnsairport.com), including a link to a video (<http://bit.ly/1JzTucm>) that outlines the work associated with the Accessibility and Safety Initiative.



ST. JOHN'S

International Airport Authority

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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Intersection Work (July 6-18)

R11-29 and R16-34

