



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

**For Immediate Release**

## **News Release**

### **Runway Intersection Work Completed on Schedule**

***95% of all flights have arrived on schedule since runway construction began on June 1<sup>st</sup>***

- Secondary runway will reopen to full length on Wednesday morning following completion of intersection work
- While extensive planning and scheduling was conducted, unpredictable weather impacted flight operations during construction of the intersection work
- 95% of all flights operated on schedule since construction started on June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Next construction milestone is the reopening of 6000 feet of the 8500 foot primary runway by the end of September
- Construction is on schedule for completion of the runway project and reopening of entire primary runway at the end of November
- Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS) will be operational in 2016, and will increase usability of the Airport from 93.8% to 99%
- 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, Tuesday, July 21, 2015** – St. John's International Airport Authority announced today that its secondary runway will be reopened to its full 7000 foot length at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 with a phased-in approach of all landing systems. Despite the unpredictable and poor weather this summer, this year's six month runway construction project is on schedule for completion at the end of November, and 95 per cent of all flights have operated on schedule since the primary runway closed on June 1, 2015.

The completion of the work on intersection of the primary and secondary runways marks the end of the critical phase of the runway project that will result in the installation and operation of a Category III Instrument Landing System (Cat 3 ILS) in 2016. Starting on July 7, 2015, the focus of construction was on the area where the primary and secondary runways intersect. Work in this area included removal of asphalt, drainage improvements, lighting improvements and repaving of the area that required over 6800 tonnes of asphalt. This work was completed within the two week time period allocated, with a one week buffer for poor weather.

While the intersection work was ongoing, the runway capability during low visibility conditions was limited. During the planning stage of this three year project, extensive weather analysis was conducted that incorporated 30 years of weather data. The results of this analysis indicated the past two weeks of July was the best time period to complete the intersection work that would minimize the impact on

*Runway Project on schedule, cont'd.*

flight operations and also ensure the runway construction was completed by the end of November. Weather this year, however, has been both unpredictable and atypical.

A total of 216 flights were impacted over the past 50 days of construction since the primary runway was closed on June 1, 2015. This represents an airfield accessibility of 95 per cent, an average that is higher than the Airport's overall annual average of 93.8 per cent. The installation and operation of the Cat 3 ILS will allow flights to operate on schedule 99 per cent of the time.

"We are very pleased with the progress of construction and the professionalism and dedication of all the construction crews working on this project. Despite the challenging weather conditions that were unpredictable for this time of year, the work during this critical phase was completed on schedule," said Glenn Mahon, Director of Operations with St. John's International Airport Authority.

Construction will now focus on completing the rehabilitation and repaving of the 160,000 square metres of the primary runway. The next milestone of this runway project is the reopening of 6000 feet of the primary runway on September 30, 2015. The third and final year of this runway project is on schedule for completion at the end of November with the reopening of the entire 8500 foot runway. The Cat 3 ILS will be installed and operational by NAV Canada in time for the foggy season of 2016.

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](http://stjohnsairport.com)), including a link to videos (<http://bit.ly/1JzTucm>) (<http://bit.ly/1L5BHdj>) that outlines the work associated with the Airfield 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.

Media contact:

Sara Norris  
Marketing and Communications Advisor  
St. John's International Airport Authority  
709-758-8756, 709-725-3460  
[snorris@stjohnsairport.com](mailto:snorris@stjohnsairport.com)  
[www.stjohnsairport.com](http://www.stjohnsairport.com)