



ST. JOHN'S
International Airport Authority

For Immediate Release

News Release

Runway Construction Progresses on Schedule

Flight disruptions due to construction were less than anticipated for the month of June.

- Construction on the primary runway is 25% complete and is progressing on schedule
- Flight disruptions due to the primary runway being closed for construction during the month of June totalled 22 arriving flights (and subsequent departing flights), representing 1.6% of all flights
- Construction around the intersection of both the primary and secondary runway will occur between July 6th and July 18th, with a one week buffer for weather delays
- During construction on the intersection work, the secondary runway will be reduced in length to 6000 feet and will have limited operational capability during low visibility weather
- 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%
- The Airport's secondary runway has sufficient length to handle all regularly scheduled, commercial aircraft through the construction period in 2015
- 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, July 2, 2015 – St. John's International Airport Authority announced that construction on its primary runway (R11-29) is approximately 25 per cent complete and progressing on schedule, following the first month of its closure to complete the necessary improvements to support the installation and operation of Category III Instrument Landing Systems (Cat 3 ILS) by NAV Canada. A total of 22 arriving flights (and the subsequent departing flights) were disrupted during the month of June as a result of the primary runway being unavailable for flight operations due to construction. This represents approximately 1.6 per cent of all flight operations for the first month of construction, which is better than the average five per cent of flight disruptions estimated.

"We are very pleased with the progress of construction during the first month of the runway closure. The weather has been favourable for both construction and flight operations, with limited impact on passenger travel," said Peter Avery, Director of Infrastructure and Planning with St. John's International Airport Authority. "We understand that any disruption to flight operations is an inconvenience for passengers, and are impressed with the recovery operations of our airline partners that responded to

Runway Construction on Schedule, cont'd.

the disruptions by adding flights or increasing the size of aircraft to ensure passengers were able to continue their journeys.”

The closure of the primary runway on June 1, 2015 was required to complete the extensive improvements and additions to the airfield as part of the third and final year of construction associated with the Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative. The primary runway (R11-29) will be closed until the end of September, at which time it will open to a reduced length of 6000 feet. 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.

Starting on July 6th, runway construction work will focus 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 anticipated to continue until July 18th, with an additional one week buffer for weather delays. During this period of time, the runway will have reduced capability for flight operations during low visibility conditions. Extensive weather analysis indicates that this is the best time period to complete the work and to minimize impact on flight operations. Once the construction in this area is complete, repaving of the entire 8500 foot runway will commence.

The new Cat 3 ILS systems will be operational in time for the foggy season in 2016 and, once in operation, 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. This technology will allow flights to operate under conditions that are twice as foggy as was previously capable prior to the commencement of this project. The substantial improvements and rehabilitation of the runway during 2015 means that no extensive work will be required on this runway for at least 15 years.

“We have conducted extensive planning with our consultants and airline partners, and have taken a number of actions to mitigate the impact of construction on the Airport's flight operations and passengers' travel. We understand that it is never a convenient time to close a runway, however the work that is being completed this year 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,” said Mr. Avery.

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 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
www.stjohnsairport.com

-30-

Intersection Work (July 6-18) R11-29 and R16-34

