



For Immediate Release

## News Release

### Category III Instrument Landing Systems Operational at St. John's International Airport

*Airfield Accessibility & Safety Initiative Complete Ahead of Schedule and On Budget*

- **Airfield Accessibility & Safety Initiative is complete ahead of schedule and on budget (\$37.3 million)**
- **Category III Instrument Landing Systems are now operational on both ends of the primary runway (R 11/29)**
- **Airfield accessibility will increase to 99% during low visibility conditions**
- **Substantial, long-term benefits to the Airport, passengers, airlines and the entire community**
- **Government of Canada, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's International Airport Authority and NAV Canada invested in this project**
- **Runway rehabilitation (additional \$15.7 million) means no substantial work will be required on the primary runway for at least 15 years**
- **Only airport in Canada with an annual passenger volume of less than 10 million to employ this technology**

**St. John's, NL, Thursday, January 28, 2016** – St. John's International Airport Authority announced today that its three-year, \$37.3 million Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative is fully complete with Category III Instrument Landing Systems (CAT III ILS) now operational on both ends of the primary runway (R11/29). As a result, the airfield's accessibility is enhanced significantly to 99% during low visibility conditions, allowing an estimated 700 more flights and 70,000 more passengers to arrive and depart annually without delays or cancellations. The project was completed on budget and ahead of its estimated completion date of March 2016.

The Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative was cost-shared between the Airport Authority, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of Canada. The federal contribution of \$12.4 million comes from the Gateways and Border Crossing Fund in support of the Atlantic Gateway and Trade Corridor Strategy. In addition, NAV Canada installed and will maintain the operation of the CAT III ILS technology. The Provincial Government contribution is \$13.8 million.

"We are delighted to announce the completion of this project that will have significant, long-term benefits for our city and our province. The improved reliability of our Airport will enhance the attractiveness of our region for business investment and tourism for many years to come," said Art Cheeseman, Chair of the St. John's International Airport Authority Board of Directors. "I would like to thank the Government of Canada, the

*CAT III ILS operational, cont'd.*

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and NAV Canada for partnering with us in this substantial investment in our Airport and our community.”

“The work we celebrate today supports this airport’s continued importance to Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as its valued role in the air industry in Canada and around the world,” said Nick Whalen, Member of Parliament for St. John’s East, on behalf of the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport. “By supporting such projects, we are demonstrating our confidence that Atlantic Canada offers unique potential as a route for goods and people travelling to and from North America. This project will also enhance efficiency, accessibility and the level of safety at the airport for travellers, flight crews and airport employees.”

“The completion of the Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative is a step forward in support of both the business and tourism industries in our province,” said the Honourable Al Hawkins, Minister of Transportation and Works, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. “The St. John’s International Airport provides an important link in the province’s transportation network and our government is working to ensure we have a system of transportation that meets the needs of citizens and supports economic development.”

Since 2013, extensive improvements were made to the Airport’s airfield to allow the installation and operation of CAT III ILS by NAV Canada. Significant amounts of terrain were removed from the airfield; centreline lights were installed on the runways and Terminal Building apron; runway end safety areas (RESAs) were constructed at each end of both the primary and secondary runways; and newer and taller approach towers were erected at both ends of the primary runway. The Airport is also the first in the world to incorporate LED lights on these new approach towers.

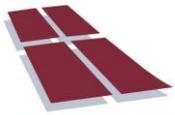
While these improvements were being made, the Airport Authority rehabilitated its primary runway at an additional cost of \$15.7 million. The primary runway was scheduled to be rehabilitated in 2017 as part of its regular maintenance schedule. However, this work was planned to be completed to coincide with the work associated with the Accessibility and Safety Initiative in order to avoid closing the primary runway more than once within a two year timeframe. With this work complete, the primary runway will not require any substantial construction work for at least 15 years.

“This was a very large and complicated civil and electrical project that took place while aircraft operations continued. The fact that this project was completed on budget, ahead of schedule, and without any reported work safety incidents or incidents related to the safety of aircraft operations is a testament to the extensive planning, communication and cooperation of all the parties involved. I would like to thank our business and tourism stakeholders and the entire community for their patience and understanding as we made these significant improvements to our airfield,” added Mr. Cheeseman.

St. John’s International Airport is the only Canadian airport that serves less than 10 million passengers annually to employ CAT III ILS. The implementation of this technology will be transformational for the Airport, and will reverse the region’s reputation for being an inaccessible location, especially during the foggy season.

Further information of the Improvement and Expansion Plan can be found on the Airport Authority’s website <http://stjohnsairport.com/expansion-yyt/>.

***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.



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

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