We’re expecting a crowd.

Welcoming 2 MILLION TRAVELLERS by 2020.
AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING EXPANSION

FAQs

Q1: What’s involved in the Airport Terminal Building Expansion?

A1: The expansion of the Airport Terminal Building will be conducted in two phases:

   First phase: east expansion (2014 – 2018), approximately 145,000 square feet.

   Second phase: west expansion (2018 – 2021), approximately 72,000 square feet.

The first phase, the east expansion is underway and will be completed by 2018. This phase will add approximately 145,000 square feet to the three floors of the existing building and will significantly expand the range of passenger services, especially in the Departures Lounge. The west expansion will commence in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2021. The focus of this 72,000 square foot expansion is on the arrivals area, with more baggage carousels being added, a further expansion to the Departures Lounge, three additional gates and passenger loading bridges, and an expanded Customs and Immigration area. Once complete, the total size of the Airport Terminal Building will be almost 400,000 square feet.

The St. John’s International Airport plays a key role as the premier gateway to the province. We’re expanding our facility and services for the two million annual passengers anticipated by 2020. In doing so, we’re building a better YYT.

Q2: How is this project being paid for?

A2: The Airport Authority is a private, not-for-profit corporation responsible for generating its own revenues and raising its own capital. In order to finance these investments, the Airport Authority developed a 10-year Financial Plan that involves securing additional long-term debt while putting policies in place to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Airport. The total additional capital funds required was $82.5 million, and this has been secured through future borrowings in the form of a private placement bond and other credit facilities. The Airport Authority’s primary source of revenue to finance this long-term debt is the Airport Improvement Fee (AIF), paid by each passenger boarding a flight at our Airport.
Q3: What improvements will passengers experience once the expansion to the Airport Terminal Building is complete?

A3: Plans for the east expansion to be completed in 2018 will include:

First level (image 1):
- renovated baggage screening area;
- expanded check-in area;
- new and expanded pre-board screening area;
- new and expanded baggage screening area; and
- additional washroom facilities.

Second level (image 2):
- expanded Departures Lounge with more seating;
- additional food & retail outlets
- full-service restaurant;
- more washroom facilities
- children’s play area; and
- nursing mother’s area.
- Additional gates & new passenger loading bridges

Plans for the west expansion to be completed in 2021 will include:

First level:
- new secondary processing area; and
- baggage carousel expansion.

Second level:
- additional gates and new passenger loading bridges;
- expanded Departures Lounge with more seating;
- additional food and beverage outlets; and
- new washroom facilities.
Q4: When will there be additional food and beverage options available in the Departures Lounge?

A4: The expanded Departures Lounge was designed with the knowledge that more food and beverage and retail options are required in this area. The original building was designed pre-911 when passengers spent most of their time pre-security versus the existing and more prevalent passenger behaviour of spending more time post-security. The expanded building is designed with this in mind. Therefore, additional food and beverage options, and retail options, will be available in the Departures Lounge when the first phase of the expansion is complete in 2018. Additional concession space is also incorporated into the second phase of the expansion, to be complete in 2021.

Q5: What will the pre-board screening area look like once the expansion is complete?

A5: The pre-board screening area is currently 298 square feet and will increase to approximately 835 square feet, expanding by approximately 280 per cent. It currently has four lines that will increase to six lines with a full body scanner.

Q6: Will flight operations be impacted by the terminal building expansion?

A6: No, flight operations are not expected to be impacted by the terminal building expansion.

Q7: Will there be improvements to the Airport Terminal Building before the expansion is complete?

A7: Yes, there will be improvements before the expansion is complete. There will be new seating, powered standing tables, new areas to charge electronic devices, as well as new flooring.

Q8: Why are you not building in extra capacity for further passenger growth beyond 2020?

A8: We are expanding the building to meet forecast passenger demand of 2 million annual passengers by 2020. According to our forecasts, in 2020 the airport will be at capacity. Our role is to take the best information we have available when planning our expansion and proceed based on what we see as the forecast demand, but also understanding what we can afford to build. We would not want to build an Airport Terminal Building now based on 25 or 30 year passenger growth forecasts, as the further out the forecast is, the less reliable it is. We are not prepared to take on the additional risk and cost of “overbuilding”. The two-phase construction of the Terminal Building also allows us to make adjustments to the size of the Terminal Building if the forecasted passenger growth does not materialize.
Q9: How will the Airport Terminal Building expansion affect passengers travelling through the airport?

A9: Unlike the rebuild of the terminal building 14 years ago, this major construction will take place on both ends of the building. Inside the Airport Terminal Building, office space of the airlines will be displaced due to construction work, but we do not anticipate any significant impact for passengers and airline operations during the expansion.

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