

News Release

YellowBelly and Newfoundland Chocolate Company arriving at St. John's International Airport in Summer 2018

Two strong Newfoundland brands to provide services in the Airport's expanded Departures Lounge

ST. JOHN'S, NL, Thursday, December 14, 2017 – St. John's International Airport Authority announced today that YellowBelly brewery & public house and Newfoundland Chocolate Company, two strong local brands, will be part of the new and expanded concession program planned for the Airport in 2018. YellowBelly will operate a full-service restaurant and Newfoundland Chocolate Company will operate a café and retail outlet, both to be located post-security in the Airport's expanded Departures Lounge.

"We are delighted to have both of these strong brands represented at our Airport, providing passengers with tastes of Newfoundland and Labrador. Both brands are well-known for their quality offerings and will facilitate a sense of place at our Airport," said Marie Manning, Director of Marketing and Business Development.

YellowBelly is one of the premier gastropubs in the City of St. John's, a city that is becoming known as a culinary destination. YellowBelly will operate the first and only full-service restaurant in the Departures Lounge and will have a seating capacity for approximately 120 customers. It will offer a similar high-quality, from-scratch food menu to its downtown location, including a variety of craft beer.

"We are pleased that the Airport Authority has chosen to support local businesses as anchor tenants in its overall concession program. YellowBelly will create a warm and inviting atmosphere, and we look forward to bringing our great food, service and craft beer to the Airport community," said Craig Flynn, Owner, YellowBelly brewery & public house.

Newfoundland Chocolate Company has grown from a husband and wife team in 2008 to become the provinces' most prestigious chocolatiers with shops and cafés located in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. The locally owned company will operate both a café, featuring premium coffees and panini sandwiches, and a retail store to sell its exceptional, artisan crafted chocolate products.

"The Newfoundland Chocolate Company is delighted to be a part of the expanded St. John's International Airport. Our combined chocolate shop and chocolate café will deliver not only the delicious Newfoundland boxed chocolates, bars, truffles and seasonal favorites that our customers love, but will also bring our unique chocolate café offerings to YYT passengers. These offerings include our fresh, locally roasted coffee,

home-made bakery treats and delicious grab and go meals. We can't wait to open!," said Brent Smith, Owner and Chief Chocolate Officer with Newfoundland Chocolate Company.

These concessionaires will operate two out of the 13 food and beverage (7) and retail (6) outlets included in the new and expanded concessions program. While there will be outlets located outside of the secure area to accommodate employees, passengers and the large number of greeters that frequent the Airport, the majority of outlets will be located in the Departures Lounge to reflect the desire of passengers to move through pre-board screening as soon as possible after check-in in order to relax in the Departures Lounge near their gate.

When the first phase of the Terminal Building expansion opens to passengers in the summer of 2018, there will be three food and beverage outlets and three retail outlets available in the Departures Lounge. This number will be extended later in 2018 to five food and beverage and five retail outlets when the existing pre-board screening area is relocated to the first floor of the expanded building. At that time, the second floor area will be converted to concession space.

Prior to conducting a competitive bid process to select the food and beverage and retail operators, over 1200 surveys were completed by passengers, employees and the general public, and frequent travelers to and from our Airport were consulted to identify the most important and appealing requirements for new concession operators. As a result of this research, the concession program was designed to provide a combination of both local and national brands; to provide healthy food options in the Departures Lounge; as well as offer fast food options. All of these elements have been incorporated into the new program and more concessionaires will be announced over the coming months.

"The expansion of the Terminal Building allows us to provide a greater selection and variety of concession offerings in a more comfortable waiting area. We expect that this will entice passengers to arrive early for their flight to enjoy a meal and shop for gifts at the Airport prior to departure," added Manning.

The concession program is just one of the many components of the Airport's expansion plans. Further information can be found at <u>http://stjohnsairport.com/expansion-yyt/</u>.



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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