



Media Release - For Immediate Release

Airport Has Record Breaking Year

January 15, 2008 Deer Lake, NL The Deer Lake Regional Airport has eclipsed all previous passenger traffic records with an unprecedented 18.3% increase in passengers over the previous record established in 2006. Traffic levels in 2007 reached 278,532 enplaning/deplaning passengers for an increase of 43,246 over the previous year. The Airport has experienced remarkable growth since the facility was transferred from Transport Canada and operated by an independent regional Authority. Since the year 2000, passenger traffic has more than doubled and now stands at a 112% increase during this seven year period. As a result of this growth, the Deer Lake Regional Airport now has the distinction of being the 4th busiest airport in Atlantic Canada.

Carl Stratton, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Airport Authority had high praise for the airport's new facilities and services during this busy period. "The opening of our new \$12 million Air Terminal Building in June facilitated our ability to manage this level of activity," stated Stratton. "During the busy summer tourist season we were averaging over 1,000 passengers each day and we could never have managed this volume of traffic without our new state-of-the-art facilities," added Stratton.

The Airport Manager, Jamie Schwartz, attributed the increase in traffic to new services and increased schedules by the airlines. "We were fortunate to attract new direct Toronto services by WestJet, Air Canada and Sunwing and combined with our existing schedule, we had a considerable increase in capacity which is necessary to grow the market," said Schwartz. "The regional market that we serve continues to grow and respond to these new services and we expect this trend to continue in the years to come," added Schwartz.

The Deer Lake Regional Airport serves Western Newfoundland with twenty-four regularly scheduled flights each day to destinations including Toronto, Halifax, Montreal, St. John's and Goose Bay with connections worldwide. Air Canada, Air Canada Jazz, Air Labrador, Provincial Airlines, WestJet and Sunwing now offer a regular or seasonal service to and from Deer Lake. The Airport also provides a winter and summer seasonal international charter service to and from Gatwick, England.

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