



News Release - For Immediate Release

Airport Benefits from Federal/Provincial Infrastructure Announcement

May 11, 2009 Deer Lake, NL The Deer Lake Regional Airport benefited today from an announcement by the Federal and Provincial Governments on joint federal-provincial investments for key infrastructure projects. The Airport received a funding commitment of \$9 million for a runway extension project, with the two levels of government providing \$3 million each and the Airport Authority financing the remaining one-third of the project cost.

Todd Lee, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Airport Authority, is very pleased with the announcement. "We have been working towards this project for quite some time and we are extremely pleased with this announcement today," said Lee. "I want to commend both levels of government for recognizing the value of the Airport to the economy of Western Newfoundland and our potential for further economic growth and activity," added Lee.

Funding for the airport is part of a \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund that provides funding to provincial, territorial and municipal construction-ready infrastructure projects. Funding is provided for projects that will be completed during the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons.

The Airport Manager, Jamie Schwartz, has indicated the project will start immediately. "We have engaged an engineering consultant to complete the final design for a 2,000 ft runway extension and prepare the appropriate tender documents," said Schwartz. "The tender will be called sometime this summer and construction will begin this fall and be completed during next years' construction season," added Schwartz.

The Deer Lake Regional Airport is currently the busiest airport in Canada with a 6,000 ft. runway. The addition of 2,000 ft. will extend the current runway to 8,000 ft and enhance operating conditions for current and future airlines. The airport provides regular or seasonal domestic passenger service with several different airlines including Air Canada, Provincial Airlines, Sunwing and WestJet. The airport has grown to become the 4th busiest airport in Atlantic Canada.

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