



**For Immediate Release**

**CEO's of Atlantic Canada's Airports meet in Central Newfoundland this week**

Gander, NL (June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013) – The CEO's of Atlantic Canada's Airports will meet in Port Rexton Wednesday and Thursday for their annual meeting to discuss common issues related to aviation and airports in the region.

On the agenda is a discussion about how the airports can continue to work together to grow air service to the region.

"I am pleased to welcome my airport counterparts to Central Newfoundland," said Gary Vey, vice president of the Atlantic Canada Airports Association and CEO of the Gander International Airport Authority. "Over the past four years we have worked together to raise awareness of our region with air carriers in order to grow service. Air transportation is a catalyst for economic growth in our region and airports are the essential links that connect our communities to the world and enable us to be meaningful participants in the global village."

Airports are important economic generators to Atlantic Canadian communities, worth over \$2.6 billion to the region's economy, noted Monette Pasher, Executive Director of the Association.

"While the airports often compete for air service, they have also recognize there is great benefit in working together to raise the awareness of what we have to offer in order to introduce new, incremental air services," Ms. Pasher said.

The airport CEO's benefit from peer learning, sharing best practice information on airport operations, management and common challenges.

"It is fitting that we are meeting in central Newfoundland this year as the Gander International Airport is a great example of an airport that faced challenges and has made great advancements under community ownership," Ms. Pasher said. "Gary Vey and his team at the GIAA have set a positive example in airport management in a number of areas including governance, operational cost reductions and improving the airport's environmental impact. In Gander, civilian passenger traffic has grown by 99% over the past seven years and the authority has improved the airports bottom line, posting an operating profit for the past 8 years, no small feat for an airport with its level of passenger traffic."

**About the Atlantic Canada Airports Association**

The ACAA represents 13 airports in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. ACAA provides a collective voice for its member airports to undertake

collaborative action on policy issues affecting our airports and communities. Member airports are significant economic generators with passenger and cargo traffic generating over \$2.6 billion into the economy annually. The regions airports move 7.2 million passenger and over 60,000 tons of cargo and account for over \$560 million in wages.

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