

For Immediate Release

Atlantic Canada's Airports pleased with new Air Policy Framework and expanded customs services

Charlottetown (April 1st, 2009) – The Atlantic Canada Airports Association (ACAA) is pleased the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is implementing a new Air Services Policy Framework. This new policy will enable airports and the communities they serve to have equal opportunity to apply for customs services that will allow airports to meet the demands of international flights.

“We are very encouraged that this new Air Policy Framework will provide an open, fair and consistent process for airports to apply for customs services,” noted ACAA Executive Director, Monette Connaughton.

The Deer Lake Regional Airport in Newfoundland was one of four airports in Canada that met the criteria and was approved to receive new customs services. The Deer Lake Regional Airport received Airport of Entry (AOE) designation, which will enable the airport to receive core CBSA services on a seasonal basis.

This announcement comes on the heels of an announcement in 2008 that included expanded customs services for three airports in Atlantic Canada; the Charlottetown Airport, the Fredericton International Airport and the Greater Moncton International Airport received expanded customs services to meet the needs of growing air service. Customs services at these three airports improved from eight hours a day to sixteen hours a day and there are already measurable examples of how these expanded customs services have translated into increased business for the region.

“ACAA has been requesting expanded customs services at the regions' airports for a number of years now, so this week's announcement was welcome news. It demonstrates that CBSA is willing to work with airports and our communities to provide equal opportunity for customs services to meet demand at airports, noted Connaughton. She continued, “Airports facilitate significant economic activity and we look forward to working with CBSA in order to provide the necessary resources to allow airport communities and the regions they serve to grow and prosper.”

About the Atlantic Canada Airports Association

The ACAA represents 13 airports in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Member airports are important economic generators with passenger and cargo traffic generating over \$2.6 billion into the economy annually. The regions airports move 6.9 million passenger and over 65,000 metric tons of cargo and account for over \$560 million in wages.

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