



**For Immediate Release**

## **Atlantic Canada Airports Association pleased customs services will be enhanced at three airports**

CHARLOTTETOWN (July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008) – The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced today that customs services will be enhanced at three airports in Atlantic Canada; Charlottetown Airport, Fredericton International Airport and Greater Moncton International Airport.

“Finally we are seeing some positive changes,” said Monette Connaughton, executive director of the Atlantic Canada Airports Authority (ACAA). “The airports in this region have been advocating for additional customs services for a number of years. It is very encouraging to see the CBSA respond to enhance service requirements at these three airports.”

The increased service brings Charlottetown, Fredericton and Moncton airports from eight hours of customs services daily to 16 hours (8:00am to midnight).

“This is a great first step.” noted Mrs. Connaughton. “However, there are still many discrepancies with CBSA service delivery at airports throughout Atlantic Canada.”

Some airports enjoy 24/7 services at no cost, others have restricted levels of service with full cost recovery after scheduled hours, and some have no scheduled service and pay full costs at all times.

“Customs services is a federal responsibility and any cost is a burden to the respective airport. For example, in 2007 the Deer Lake Regional Airport paid \$120,000 in service fees as they have no scheduled service and airlines servicing St. John’s International Airport paid \$150,000 for services outside the scheduled hours. These costs are undoubtedly passed on to the traveler”, added Connaughton.

“The ACAA has long contended that customs services should be provided at no cost and all airports should be given an equal opportunity for customs services to meet demand regardless of their location. 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, said Connaughton.”

The ACAA represents 13 airports in Newfoundland, 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.

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