



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2025

Atlantic Canada Airports Applaud Provincial Funding Commitment to Strengthen Regional Air Connectivity

(Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island) The Atlantic Canada Airports Association (ACAA) welcomes today's announcement by the Council of Atlantic Premiers regarding new provincial funding to support regional air service. This investment says the association is a significant step toward stronger air connectivity across the region, helping to unlock economic growth, boost tourism, and improve access for Atlantic Canadians.

"Better regional air service is a win for everyone," said Nadia MacDonald, executive director of the ACAA. "And it's not just about moving people; it's about moving ideas, supporting local business, creating jobs, and helping families stay connected. This kind of support sends a clear message that our provinces understand the value of working together as a region."

The funding comes at a pivotal time says MacDonald. While larger hubs have largely rebounded from the impacts of the pandemic, many smaller regional airports are still working to restore lost routes and rebuild capacity. The initiative and funding will help level the playing field and ensure more equitable access to air service throughout Atlantic Canada.

A recent study by the Canadian Airports Council highlights the economic benefits of regional flights: a single route can generate more than 125 full-time jobs and more than \$40 million in annual economic output. In Atlantic Canada, where geography can be a barrier, the return on investment is even more compelling.

Regional air service plays a vital role in connecting people not only through business and tourism, but through family, culture, and shared experiences. Strengthened air access

helps grow interprovincial tourism, support small and medium-sized businesses, improve access to healthcare and education, and foster a more connected and resilient region.

MacDonald added: “We’re thrilled to see the provinces stepping up, and we deeply appreciate the continued support of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Whether it’s visiting family, attending a conference, or welcoming tourists, strong regional air service makes those connections possible. This is an investment in our region’s future.”

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About the Atlantic Canada Airports Association

The Atlantic Canada Airports Association is a non-profit industry association representing all airports in the region that have been transferred to local control from the federal government. Together, the ACAA’s 14 member airports handle 99 percent of passenger traffic, including all international and transborder passengers, and all cargo traffic into and out of the region.