



## **Air Canada and Government of Canada Conclude Agreements on Liquidity Program**

Air Canada announced on April 12, 2021 that it has entered into a series of debt and equity financing agreements with the Government of Canada, which will allow Air Canada to access up to \$5.879 billion in liquidity through the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) program. "Air Canada entered the pandemic more than a year ago with one of the global airline industry's strongest balance sheets relative to its size. We have since raised an additional \$6.8 billion in liquidity from our own resources to sustain us through the pandemic, as air traffic ground to a virtual halt in Canada and internationally," said Michael Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Air Canada.

*Air Canada and Government of Canada Conclude Agreements on Liquidity Program, April 12, 2021, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

## **Air Canada to get billions in COVID aid in exchange for restoring domestic routes, refunding cancelled trips**

Air Canada will receive a multibillion-dollar relief package from the federal government and in exchange the airline will restore domestic routes and refund customers whose flights were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Months after beleaguered airlines launched negotiations over a bailout, Air Canada and the federal government announced on April 12, 2021 evening that the country's largest airline will have access to up to \$5.9 billion in low-interest loans and equity financing.

*Air Canada to get billions in COVID aid in exchange for restoring domestic routes, refunding cancelled trips, April 12, 2021, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)*

## **Air Canada to Offer Refunds for All Fares for Flights Affected by COVID-19 since February 1, 2020**

Air Canada said that eligible customers who purchased a non-refundable ticket for travel on or after February 1, 2020 but did not fly can now obtain a refund from the carrier by submitting a request online or with their travel agent. The revised COVID-19 refund policy covers tickets and Air Canada Vacations packages purchased before April 13, 2021 for flights cancelled either by the airline or by the customer for any reason. "Air Canada will be offering refunds to all eligible customers whether they cancelled their ticket or if their flight was cancelled by the airline. Customers can now submit refund requests online or through their travel agent and we are committed to processing refunds as fast as possible," said Lucie Guillemette, Executive Vice-President and Chief Commercial Officer at Air Canada.

*Air Canada to Offer Refunds for All Fares for Flights Affected by COVID-19 since February 1, 2020, April 13, 2021, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

## **Support for Air Canada, Restoration of Regional Routes are Positive Steps towards Recovery**

The Canadian Airports Council on April 13, 2021 welcomed the federal government announcement of support for Air Canada as an important step to support the air sector and rebuild Canada's national aviation system post-pandemic.

*Support for Air Canada, Restoration of Regional Routes are Positive Steps towards Recovery, April 13, 2021, [www.cacairports.ca](http://www.cacairports.ca)*

## **WestJet extends sun-flight suspensions until June 4**

WestJet on April 13, 2021, announced that it will extend its temporary suspension of international sun flights to destinations in Mexico and the Caribbean until June 4, 2021. "We are extending our suspension with the clear expectation that as more Canadians are vaccinated, government policy will transition," said Ed Sims, WestJet President and CEO. "We continue to advocate for the replacement of mandatory hotel

quarantines with a testing regime that is equitable and consistent with global standards at all points of entry into our country. Alongside an accelerated and successful vaccine rollout, this policy transition will support the safe restart of travel and help stimulate the Canadian economy, where one in ten jobs are tourism related."

*WestJet extends sun-flight suspensions until June 4, April 13, 2021, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

## **June 21 set as new tentative date for restarting flights by Porter Airlines**

Porter Airlines is resetting its tentative date for resuming flights to June 21, 2021. "In recent weeks, there has been open discussion by government officials about easing travel restrictions based on expectations that vaccination programs will be well advanced in the U.S. and Canada by early summer," said Michael Deluce, president and CEO of Porter Airlines. "We recognize that short-term public health measures have been enhanced recently in certain jurisdictions. At the same time, we are looking ahead to summer and preparing for the possibility of some travel restrictions unwinding. We will begin the process of rebuilding our operations as soon as conditions allow based on government decisions." Porter previously set May 19, 2021 as its tentative restart date. Operations were temporarily suspended on March 21, 2020, due to COVID-19.

*June 21 set as new tentative date for restarting flights by Porter Airlines, April 12, 2021, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)*

## **The Governments of Canada and Quebec announce a major investment in the Réseau express métropolitain at the Montréal-Trudeau International Airport**

On April 15, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, other ministers and the Chief Executive Officer of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Mr. Ehren Cory, announced a \$500 million financial package to support Aéroports de Montréal and to enable the construction of the REM station at the Montréal-Trudeau International Airport. The construction of the REM station, an estimated \$600 million project, will be led by Aéroports de Montréal, with financial contribution from the following: 1) **Transport Canada** who is investing up to \$100 million; 2) **Gouvernement du Québec**, through Investissement Québec, who is providing a loan of up to \$100 million; 3) **Canada Infrastructure Bank** who is providing a loan of up to \$300 million; and 4) **Aéroports de Montréal** who is providing up to \$100 million.

*The Governments of Canada and Quebec announce a major investment in the Réseau express métropolitain at the Montréal-Trudeau International Airport, April 15, 2021, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

## **Minister of Transport applauds NAV CANADA's decision to continue all air navigation services to Canadian communities**

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, issued this statement "As Canada's Minister of Transport, I am pleased to see that NAV CANADA has committed to no closures at air traffic control towers or flight service stations, as well as at northern and remote locations, across the country. I also welcome NAV CANADA's commitment to maintaining a continuous dialogue with their employees, stakeholders and communities as Canada's air transport sector responds to the ongoing pandemic. Maintaining appropriate service in our local communities will allow NAV CANADA to continue to provide air navigation services required to support industry today and throughout the recovery."

*Minister of Transport applauds NAV CANADA's decision to continue all air navigation services to Canadian communities, April 15, 2021, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

## **How the CTA will be processing Air Canada refund-related complaints resulting from the pandemic**

The Canadian Transportation Agency will confirm whether applicants who filed complaints with us have had those resolved with the airline. The process to receive a refund linked to the financial support announced for Air Canada is distinct from the CTA's complaints process. The CTA will continue to process complaints unless passengers inform us they do not wish to pursue their complaints with us further (e. g., if a passenger receives a refund and is not seeking any further remedies). In the interests of fairness, the CTA processes most complaints on a first-in, first-out basis.

*How the CTA will be processing Air Canada refund-related complaints resulting from the pandemic, April 15, 2021, [www.cta-otc.gc.ca](http://www.cta-otc.gc.ca)*

## **U.S. Airlines February 2021 Passengers Decreased 61% from February 2020 (Preliminary)**

U.S. airlines carried 61% fewer scheduled service passengers in February 2021 than in February 2020 (preliminary), according to data filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) by 22 airlines that carry more than 90% of the passengers. February 2021 was the fifth straight month of year-over-year declines slightly above 60%. The large airlines carried 26.5 million passengers in February 2021 (preliminary), compared to 67.6 million passengers in February 2020 and 3.0 million in April 2020, which was the lowest monthly total in BTS records dating back to 1974. The previous low was 14.6 million passengers in February 1975.

*U.S. Airlines February 2021 Passengers Decreased 61% from February 2020 (Preliminary), April 13, 2021, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## **Make Drones a Part of the Overall Transport System**

Drones should be treated as a part of the whole transport system and of society more broadly. Only then will we all reap the full economic and social benefits from drone technology. This was ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim's core message in his keynote for the "Drone Enable" symposium organised by ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization, held online today, 13 April 2021. In his speech, Secretary-General Kim outlined five areas "that should be at the forefront of our thinking when we consider how drones should be integrated" into the transport system. The five areas are: consider the economics of drones; create public acceptance for drones; regulate drones' impact on the environment; **use** cases for drones; and make infrastructure for drones.

*Make Drones a part of the overall transport system, April 13, 2021, [www.itf-oecd.org](http://www.itf-oecd.org)*

## **U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Initial Steps Toward Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program, Encourages Businesses, Especially Small Businesses, to Begin Preparing for the Application Process**

On April 14, 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced initial steps toward launching the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection (AMJP) program, and is encouraging small businesses who may be eligible for funding under this program to begin preparing for the application process. \$3 billion available soon for eligible businesses

hurt by the pandemic to help cover employee compensation costs for up to six months

*U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Initial Steps Toward Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program, Encourages Businesses, Especially Small Businesses, to Begin Preparing for the Application Process, April 14, 2021, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

## **January 2021 U.S. Airline Traffic Data**

U.S. airlines carried 30.8 million systemwide (domestic and international) scheduled service passengers in January 2021, seasonally adjusted, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS), down 0.9% from December 2020. BTS reported 27.7 million domestic passengers and 3.1 million international passengers on U.S. airlines flights in January 2021. U.S. airline traffic reports are filed monthly with BTS. See the tables that accompany this release on the BTS website for summary data since 2016 (Tables 1-24) and complete data since 2000.

*January 2021 U.S. Airline Traffic Data, April 15, 2021, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## **Climate action, flight shaming, trains-over-planes laws, and sustainability. While activists and politicians focus on CO2 emissions, they may be missing the bigger picture.**

*For decades, the aviation sector has been working systematically to reduce its impact on the planet. The long-running development of sustainable fuels and CORSIA (the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation), adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations specialized agency, are among the main pillars for greener skies. To reduce jet-fuel burn and the consequent carbon emissions, airlines have employed multiple strategies to control and remove onboard weight and waste. In the 'GREEN' ADVANCES Chapter of Jetliner Cabins: Evolution & Innovation, Author Jennifer Coutts Clay, CMILT, examines a range of technical triumphs and exceptional achievements across the product spectrum: air travellers can rest assured that their carbon footprints are in very good hands.*

*Approximately 10,000 words; 100 illustrations; 80 website links.*

*Click here to read the ['GREEN' ADVANCES Chapter of Jetliner Cabins: Evolution & Innovation, Author Jennifer Coutts Clay, CMILT.](#)*