



## **Minister of Transport provides update on Safer Skies Initiative at ICAO Council meeting**

On June 18, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, virtually joined the 223rd session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council to discuss the latest developments on the downing of Flight PS752 and Canada's Safer Skies Initiative. The Minister reiterated Canada's long-standing position on the downing of Flight PS752 and condemned Iran, in the strongest terms, for its actions that led to the tragedy and its handling of the aftermath, including its failure to provide answers. He noted that Iran failed to recognize the danger of their military operations and neglected to take measures to prevent this tragedy. The Minister also expressed Canada's continued commitment to obtaining justice, transparency and accountability for the victims of Flight PS752 and their families.

*Minister of Transport provides update on Safer Skies Initiative at ICAO Council meeting, June 18, 2021, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

## **Air Canada Inaugurates New Service from Montreal to Cairo, Egypt**

Air Canada operated on June 18, 2021 its first non-stop service between Montreal and Cairo, serving the large Egyptian community established in Montreal and throughout North America, and providing an additional gateway to Africa. "Air Canada is pleased to offer its first scheduled flights to Egypt. We are strategically rebuilding our international network by adding new routes that support leisure and visiting friends and family travel. With few non-stop options to Egypt from North America, we see opportunities to launch new non-stop flights to Cairo from Montreal where there is an established Egyptian community. We have also built convenient connections to and from our Cairo flights from across Canada and the US at our Montreal hub. This new route shows our commitment to rebuild our international network and our Montreal hub, which have been dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mark

Galardo, Senior Vice President, Network Planning and Revenue Management.

*Air Canada Inaugurates New Service from Montreal to Cairo, Egypt, June 18, 2021, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

## **Government of Canada providing additional funding to support essential air services for remote communities in Yukon**

On June 21, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, the Minister of Highways and Public Works for the Government of Yukon, the Honourable Nils Clarke, and the Member of Parliament for Yukon, Larry Bagnell, announced that the Government of Canada is providing an additional \$1 million to the Government of Yukon to continue the support of essential air services for remote communities in Yukon. The funding announced is in addition to the \$7.16 million provided to the Government of Yukon in 2020 to maintain essential air services to remote communities.

*Government of Canada providing additional funding to support essential air services for remote communities in Yukon, June 21, 2021, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

## **Annual civil aviation statistics: First look, 2020**

Canadian air carriers transported 28.3 million passengers in 2020, down 70.0% from the 94.0 million passengers carried in 2019, the first such decline since the economic downturn in 2009. Domestic traffic (within Canada) was down 66.8% to 16.2 million passengers, while international traffic fell 73.3% to 12.1 million passengers, with most (approximately 70%) passengers flown in the first three months of 2020. Canadian air carriers provided 63.0 billion (correction) passenger-kilometres of service in 2020, a decline of 73.0% from the previous year. On average, each

passenger travelled 2,229 kilometres, down 10.0% compared with 2019, while total hours flown decreased by 58.7% to 1.4 million hours. In 2020, operating revenue earned by Level I to III air carriers fell 61.5% to \$11.3 billion, pushed down by passenger revenue dropping 68.0% on lower demand for flights amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Operating expenses declined 43.9% to \$15.3 billion, mainly from lower fuel costs, which fell by 63.9%.

*Annual civil aviation statistics: First look, 2020, June 21, 2021, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

### **Ottawa eases quarantine for vaccinated travellers, but won't give firm date for full reopening of U.S. border**

Federal cabinet ministers are refusing to outline a clear threshold for when the Canada-U.S. border can reopen for non-essential travel, saying instead that they are looking at a wide range of factors — and that even if Canada's domestic numbers look good, the international situation may not allow for it. Health Minister Patty Hajdu suggested that one key metric will be getting 75 per cent of eligible Canadians fully vaccinated. But she went on to list numerous other metrics that could play a role in reopening, including whether other countries have their own COVID-19 case rate under control. Business groups, travel companies and politicians on both sides of the border have been calling for a gradual opening of the U.S. border or, at the very least, a clear plan for when the restrictions can be rolled back for fully vaccinated travellers. Over the weekend, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer told the Buffalo News he was “really angry” that the border is staying closed for another month and had called Canada's ambassador to the United States to voice his concerns. The border has been closed to non-essential travel since March 2020.

*Ottawa eases quarantine for vaccinated travellers, but won't give firm date for full reopening of U.S. border, June 21, 2021, [www.nationalpost.ca](http://www.nationalpost.ca)*

### **Government of Canada providing additional funding to support essential air services for remote communities in the Northwest Territories**

On June 21, 2021, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, and the Minister of Finance for the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Caroline Wawzonek, and Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories, announced that the

Government of Canada is providing an additional \$12.5 million to the Government of the Northwest Territories to continue the support of essential air services for remote communities in the Northwest Territories. The funding announced is in addition to the \$17.1 million provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories in 2020 to maintain essential air services to remote communities.

*Government of Canada providing additional funding to support essential air services for remote communities in the Northwest Territories, June 21, 2021, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

### **Statement on June 21 government announcement**

While the June 21, 2021 federal announcement confirms that it will be easier for Canadians to travel internationally this summer, Canada's airports are disappointed that the federal government is providing no information on the subsequent phases in its restart plan, leaving Canadians and the travel and tourism sector in the dark on what is planned for the coming weeks and months. Canada's airports are calling on the federal government to release and quickly implement a multi-phased plan to reopen travel based on recommendations made by the federal government's medical experts on its Expert Advisory Panel on Testing and Screening, including elimination of hotel quarantine for all travellers, elimination of quarantine for all fully vaccinated travellers, and new measures for partially vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers. The restart plan should also include measures to eliminate funnelling of international passengers to four airports, moving arrivals testing away from airport terminals, and reducing the two-metre physical distancing requirement.

*Statement on June 21 government announcement, June 23, 2021, [www.cacairports.ca](http://www.cacairports.ca)*

### **Weekly aircraft movements, June 5 to 11, 2021**

Weekly data on aircraft itinerant movements are now available for June 5 to 11, 2021 on Statistics Canada website. Domestic movements for the week ending June 5, 2021 were 34,668 compared to 39,251 on May 29, 2021.

*Weekly aircraft movements, June 5 to 11, 2021, June 23, 2021, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## **Westjet Cargo Announces Dedicated Freighters to Better Serve Canada**

WestJet on June 23, 2021 announced that it is launching a new dedicated cargo service, using 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters (BCF), as dedicated aircraft, to fulfill the larger-scale needs of Canadian businesses, freight forwarders, shippers and individual customers. The first of these dedicated 737-800BCFs are expected to be in service by the second quarter of 2022.

*Westjet Cargo Announces Dedicated Freighters to Better Serve Canada, June 23, 2021, [www.westjet.ca](http://www.westjet.ca)*

## **Air Travel Consumer Report: April 2021 Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Transportation on June 21, 2021 released its June 2021 Air Travel Consumer Report (ATCR) on airline operational data compiled for the month of April 2021. The ATCR is designed to assist consumers with information on the quality of services provided by airlines. The ATCR and other aviation consumer matters of interest to the public can be found at <http://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer>.

*Air Travel Consumer Report: April 2021 Numbers, June 21, 2021, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

## **U.S. Airlines April 2021 Passengers Increased 9% from March 2021 (Preliminary)**

U.S. airlines carried 9.5% more scheduled service passengers in April 2021 than in March 2021 (preliminary) but 39% fewer passengers than in pre-pandemic April 2019, according to data filed with the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) by 18 airlines that carry more than 90% of the passengers. The large airlines carried 46.6 million passengers in April 2021 (preliminary), compared to 3 million passengers 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 April 2021 Passengers Increased 9% from March 2021 (Preliminary), June 22, 2021, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## **U.S. Passenger Airline Employment Down in April 2021 from March**

The 23 U.S. scheduled passenger airlines employed 0.9% fewer full-time equivalents (FTEs) in April 2021 than in March 2021. First, April's total

number of FTEs (391,501) was down 3,562 from March (395,063) and down 70,096, a 15.2% drop from the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 (461,597). Second, April 2021 was the lowest FTE total for the month of April since 2014 (384,265). Third, April 2021, scheduled passenger airlines employed 60% of the total airline industry FTEs, down from 63% in March 2020. Total industry includes cargo and charter.

*U.S. Passenger Airline Employment Down in April 2021 from March, June 24, 2021, [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov)*

## **Concorde Unique: Concorde Timelines by Jennifer Coutts Clay, CMILT**

Designed with shorter journey time in mind, the allure of supersonic travel is timeless.

The rarer a thing, the greater value we place on it. Given restrictions on service and the high costs of supersonic operations, it was only logical that Concorde became an icon of luxury travel, a pleasure reserved for the rich and famous. That rarified atmosphere was enhanced by airlines developing an exclusive travel experience which made passengers feel they were getting their money's worth. The article [CONCORDE TIMELINES](#) written by Jennifer Coutts Clay, author of [JETLINER CABINS](#): Evolution and Innovation, for Aircraft Interiors International magazine in 2018, looks at the 27-year operating history of Concorde (1976 - 2003) and how airlines made high-speed flight less of a journey and more of a special event, creating experiences that lingered in the imagination, influencing culture.

Will tomorrow's supersonic flight live up to that elite legacy?