

Loss of Airlines and Airport will Decimate Our Businesses

Oct 14, 2020 – Saint John NB - With today's WestJet announcement indefinitely suspending operations to Moncton, Fredericton, Sydney and Charlottetown, while significantly reducing service to Halifax and St. John's, The Saint John Airport and the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce urge the Provincial and Federal governments to step up and implement measures to save our airports.

WestJet's announcement follows on the heels of an earlier announcement in June by Air Canada that the airline was indefinitely suspending 11 routes in Atlantic Canada and closing stations in Bathurst, NB and Wabush, NL.

Airports across the country have been left scrambling from the pandemic, facing massive losses in revenue from reduced passenger traffic and airline flight schedules.

We need immediate programs to address:

- Rapid testing and response, and;
- Meaningful financial assistance for this sector.

Saint John Airport President and CEO, Derrick Stanford states, "We need to explore more science-based approaches to 14 day quarantines and find a balance between lives and livelihoods....we can't remain cut off from the rest of the world any longer - unemployment in our sector is 50% already."

David Duplisea, CEO of the Chamber adds, "Government funding could not be any more critical than it is now, to lose our airport will decimate our business community".

The WestJet announcement may be found at:

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/westjet-pulls-back-from-atlantic-canada-878245020.html>

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