



AIR CANADA

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Air Canada's fleet renewal ensures travellers superior comfort when flying this summer season

Enhanced summer schedule offers Canadian communities more service

MONTREAL, Feb. 18 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada announced today that with its aircraft refurbishment program substantially complete, travellers taking advantage of the airline's expanded summer schedule will travel in greater comfort than ever before.

"Air Canada is passing a milestone in its aircraft interior refurbishment program. The renewal of our regular narrow body fleet will be complete by June 1 and three quarters of our wide-body aircraft will also be ready for the summer, meaning we can now guarantee a new or refurbished aircraft on our major routes. With our new aircraft and refitted interiors, Air Canada customers will be more comfortable than any armchair traveller, enjoying lie-flat suites in Executive First on international flights and new seats throughout all our aircraft, each featuring a personal audio-visual entertainment system with free access to 36 movies and hundreds of CDs, a 120-volt power plug, a USB port and more," said Ben Smith, Executive Vice President, Commercial, at Air Canada. "Further enhancing the travel experience on Air Canada this summer is the consolidation of our operations in a single terminal at our Toronto hub. With its new Maple Leaf Lounges, conveniently located gates, and customs pre-clearance to the U.S., travellers can connect seamlessly with our national, transborder and international network."

Customers booking travel through www.aircanada.com are able to determine at the time of booking through a red star designator that their chosen flight will be operated with a new or refurbished aircraft. Recently, Air Canada upgraded its reservation system to make it easier for travel agents to identify new aircraft or those with the new interiors.

Air Canada's 142 regular Embraer and Airbus narrowbody aircraft serving primarily domestic and transborder routes will be either new or refurbished as of June 1. Forty-five of its 60 long-haul, widebody aircraft will be either new or have refitted interiors by the same date, allowing Air Canada to designate key international routes to be served exclusively by these aircraft. Among these routes are: Ottawa-London, Montreal-Paris, Toronto-Frankfurt, Toronto-Tel Aviv, Toronto-Munich, Toronto-Zurich, and Toronto-Madrid. All Toronto-Asia services will be operated using Boeing 777s equipped with the new interiors as will Vancouver-Sydney.

Air Canada also announced today its schedule for the summer of 2008. The airline is introducing 13 new routes this summer. Schedule highlights include:

Western Canada:

Air Canada is increasing frequencies or capacity on 17 intra-Western Canada routes as well as on routes to eastern Canada. The changes include a new daily non-stop between Saskatoon and Ottawa and adding a second daily frequency between Vancouver and Regina, a third daily flight between Vancouver and Prince Rupert, a third daily flight between Kamloops and Calgary, a fourth daily flight each between Calgary and the cities of Fort McMurray and Victoria, and a fifth daily flight between Edmonton and Fort McMurray and between Calgary and Montreal. In addition, Air Canada will expand to year round the recently added second daily flight from Edmonton to Ottawa and a third daily flight from Calgary to Ottawa introduced with the winter schedule.

Central and Eastern Canada:

Air Canada is adding new routes and increasing frequencies or capacity on eight routes within Ontario and Quebec and on two routes in Atlantic Canada, as well as adding additional service to Western Canada. The changes include new non-stop daily service between Ottawa and the cities of Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, and Charlottetown. There is also an added daily frequency between Toronto and Sarnia. Other enhancements include a sixth daily frequency each between St. John's, Nfld. and both Halifax and Toronto.

Transborder:

Air Canada is adding four new transborder routes with daily service this summer and increasing frequencies or capacity on 14 other routes. The new routes are Toronto and Austin, Toronto and Richmond Va. (twice daily), Ottawa and Washington (National Airport) and Calgary and Chicago. In addition to these new routes, Air Canada is increasing service on other routes, including adding a second daily frequency between Montreal and San Francisco, a third daily frequency between Toronto and Charlotte, a second frequency between Toronto and Kansas City and a second weekly frequency between Vancouver and Maui. Finally, Air Canada is adding a 13th daily flight between Toronto and New York. This brings to 24 the number of daily flights Air Canada operates to three New York airports from Toronto (13 to La Guardia, seven to Newark and four to Westchester County), providing customers the best choice for travel to the area.

International:

Air Canada is launching this summer the new international non-stop routes of Toronto-Madrid and Ottawa-Frankfurt. As well, it is improving capacity or frequencies on other routes and these include increasing the number of flights between Vancouver and Seoul to ten a week from seven (pending government approval), boosting service between Toronto and Tel Aviv to daily from five times a week and increasing flights from Toronto to Buenos Aires/Santiago to daily, up from five a week.

Montreal-based Air Canada provides scheduled and charter air transportation for passengers and cargo to more than 170 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is the 14th largest commercial airline in the world and serves 32 million customers annually with a fleet consisting of 335 aircraft. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, providing the world's most comprehensive air transportation network.

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