

July 2, 2026

The Honourable Tony Wakeham
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Wakeham,

We, the undersigned organizations — techNL, econext, the Board of Trade along with many local companies — are writing to encourage the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to prioritize and support the re-establishment of year-round direct air service from St. John's to both Europe and New York.

As you know, Newfoundland and Labrador companies are increasingly operating globally—they are leaders in their fields, and their reach, networks, partners, suppliers, and clients span the globe. Newfoundland and Labrador has a culture of entrepreneurship that continues to strengthen and expand, yet the consistent challenge reported by most is the ongoing difficulty they face when trying to travel out of Newfoundland and Labrador – the lost time and high costs are hurting their business and creating barriers to opportunities for growth, development, partnerships and expansion.

We acknowledge and commend the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for its support of WestJet's seasonal, non-stop trans-Atlantic service from St. John's to London Gatwick, Dublin, and Paris, and the \$1.5 million committed in the recent provincial budget for air service development at airports across the province. These are important and welcomed steps that reflect a clear recognition of air connectivity as a strategic economic priority. As is the case in many other provinces, targeted financial support from government can play a meaningful role in attracting and sustaining new air services to communities, and we are encouraged by this momentum.

As Newfoundland and Labrador's economy becomes increasingly global, reliable and efficient air connectivity is critical to supporting business growth, investment attraction, talent retention, and international trade. Through our Business Air Travel & Connectivity Survey we conducted with companies across Newfoundland and Labrador, we have identified a clear and growing demand for reliable, year-round, direct connectivity between St. John's and Europe, and between St. John's and New York. Further, the lack of options is increasingly negatively impacting Newfoundland and Labrador based companies. We would be pleased to share more of what we heard from the survey at your convenience.

A year-round direct route between St. John's and Europe, alongside enhanced direct access to New York, would strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's ability to compete globally, support local companies expanding into international markets, attract international events, talent and investors, and improve productivity across multiple sectors. Improved international connectivity will become even more important as Newfoundland and Labrador advances major economic

opportunities such as the Bay du Nord project, alongside continued growth in the technology, mining, energy, ocean, and export sectors.

We recognize that establishing and sustaining direct international routes requires collaboration between government, airports, airlines, and industry stakeholders, and to meaningfully advance improved connectivity, a commitment from the government to prioritize this issue is particularly critical. **Specifically, our ask is that the provincial government help create the conditions that make it less risky for an airline to launch one of these routes** such as a revenue guarantee and joining our coalition of supporters. Securing a new international route is a competitive process, and we want Newfoundland and Labrador positioned to move quickly and credibly when an opportunity arises. To that end, we ask the Government to work with us and with the St. John's International Airport Authority to make it happen.

We thank you for your attention to this important economic development opportunity and we look forward to discussing this opportunity further and working alongside you to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador is positioned to benefit from increased air access and economic growth.

Sincerely,
Ayon Shahed
Chair, techNL

AnnMarie Boudreau
CEO, Board of Trade

Laura Barron
CEO, econext

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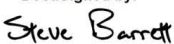
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Supporting Newfoundland and Labrador companies with significant annual business travel to Europe and/or New York:

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CEO, eDNAtec

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Andrew Bell

Abell Group

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Randy Billard

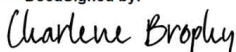
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Charlene Brophy

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Sam Bromley

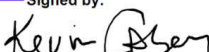
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