

Irving Aviation indulges travellers with flights of fancy in Newfoundland

By **BOBBI-JEAN MacKINNON**

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SAINT JOHN - A full-service Flight Support Centre was officially opened today by Irving Aviation Services at the St. John's Airport in Newfoundland.

Air travellers can make hotel reservations, co-ordinate customs, and arrange car rentals, all at one location.

"We believe in taking care of people," said Kendra Black, manager of public relations for Irving Oil Ltd.

For many air travellers, St. John's is a last stop before heading across the Atlantic ocean, she said. "We want to make sure all of their needs are taken care of and that means going the extra mile."

The centre will serve executive, foreign and domestic military and cargo aircraft of the transatlantic market as well as Cougar Helicopters - an important link to the Hibernia Field operations.

In addition to Irving jet fuel, pilots will have access to a lounge with an on-line weather service and flight planning computers.

"The opening of this facility demonstrates once more Irving

Oil's commitment to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador," Arthur Irving, Jr. stated in a press release.

About 33 jobs have been created by the centre.

"More than 7,000 transatlantic flights touch down in Newfoundland each year and this facility will make the St. John's airport even more competitive in this important economic sector, allowing it to compete with Keflavik, Iceland, and Bangor, Maine," said Mr. Irving.

Ms. Black declined to say how much the centre cost the company, saying only that it was a "handsome investment" and citing examples of a few expenses such as a \$250,000 fuel truck and \$250,000 de-icing truck. "It's certainly an expensive facility to operate," she said.

"It's a true expression of the confidence in the opportunity for the local economy to build," said Ms. Black, adding she believes the new centre will help draw more business because of its unique services.

Irving Aviation Services is the largest refiner and supplier of jet fuels in Atlantic Canada. It sells its own jet fuel, which is refined to the

highest military specifications, at airports throughout the region.

The company has similar

full-service flight support centres at Gander, Goose Bay, and Portland, Maine. *

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