NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Airport Celebrates WestJet's 20th Anniversary at YXX

Abbotsford, June 19, 2017 – The City of Abbotsford, and Abbotsford International Airport are privileged to be celebrating WestJet's 20th anniversary of service in Abbotsford, announced Mayor Henry Braun.

WestJet began service at Abbotsford International Airport on June 18, 1997. Since that time, both YXX and WestJet have seen tremendous growth. YXX has grown from 3,000 passengers in 1997 to over 530,000 passengers in 2016.

WestJet made aviation history on June 18, 1997 by being the first scheduled jet carrier to provide service into and out of YXX and was the first scheduled jet carrier to start a totally new destination in Canada in nearly 20 years.

As the population of Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley continue to grow, YXX and WestJet are well positioned to serve the growing region. Currently, WestJet offers more flights to more destinations from Abbotsford than any other airline. This includes seasonal service to Mexico from YXX, along with 9 daily domestic flights to and from YXX, 5 to Calgary, 3 to Edmonton and 1 daily to Winnipeg with connections onwards to their entire International Network.

Quotes:

"On behalf of City Council and the Abbotsford Airport Authority, I would like to offer my congratulations to WestJet on 20 successful years at YXX. WestJet is a valued partner of the Abbotsford International Airport and has been integral in taking our regional Airport to an international level. Along with contributing to growing our airport and local economy, WestJet has helped millions of residents reach their destinations throughout Canada and the world. We are proud to have you in our community, and we look forward to working with you for many more years."

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

"Our 20 years of business is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Abbotsford International Airport staff, the City of Abbotsford, the community, our own WestJetters, and our loyal guests. This impressive accomplishment is particularly notable given that YXX and WestJet have grown together from small roots when we provided YXX with its first commercial service to now serving nine daily flights and more than half a million guests per year. Our tremendous working relationship, low-cost operations of the airport, and the elimination of the Airport Improvement Fee (AIF) have translated into growth and opportunity to further connect communities and economies. WestJet looks forward to serving the community for many years to come."

Bryan Znotins
WestJet, Vice-President, Network Planning, Alliances and Corporate Development

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Backgrounder:
June 18, 1997 WestJet News Release -

WESTJET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WestJet Airlines Lands In Abbotsford / Fraser Valley

CALGARY, Alberta.   June 18, 1997.   WestJet Airlines made aviation history today by being the first scheduled carrier to provide service into and out of the Abbotsford, B.C. airport and the first scheduled jet carrier to start a totally new destination in Canada in nearly 20 years.

Abbotsford Airport is situated in the heart of British Columbia's Fraser Valley, and together with WestJet's continued service to the Vancouver International Airport, the Airline will provide the most comprehensive service to the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.   WestJet will offer 11 flights a week between Alberta and Abbotsford/Fraser Valley.

WestJet celebrated the arrival of its 1:55 P.M. inbound flight from Calgary with a press conference and reception hosting local government, business and tourism officials at the new air terminal at the Abbotsford Airport.   On hand at the celebrations to say a few words were Clive Beddoe, Chairman and C.E.O. of WestJet Airlines and Mayor George Ferguson of The City of Abbotsford.

Clive Beddoe said today "we are extremely pleased with the support that we have received on our newest destination, Abbotsford/Fraser Valley.   Both Alberta and the Fraser Valley have embraced this new service showing their support through strong passenger bookings and service inquiries.   The Fraser Valley has a population base in excess of 600,000 and they now have air service that is affordable and easily accessible. We believe that this market is a winner for both the communities and WestJet Airlines and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership."

With the addition of the Abbotsford/Fraser Valley market, WestJet Airlines serves the 8 western Canadian cities of Victoria, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Vancouver International Airport and Abbotsford/Fraser Valley.   The airline recently celebrated carrying its one-millionth passenger since their commencement of flight operations on February 29, 1996.

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