

PRESS RELEASE

GIAA RELEASES 2023 RESULTS

(Gander, NL, May 9, 2024) Today, the Gander International Airport Authority (GIAA) held its annual public meeting to reflect on its 2023 performance.

“Despite the challenges we faced with regional connectivity and escalating costs for supplies, services, and energy, we are slowly regaining our footing,” said GIAA CEO Reg Wright. “While many aspects of our operations are promising, it's evident that our core business of passengers and airplanes is still on the path to recovery.”

Highlights:

- Total **revenue** for 2023 reached \$8.4 million, representing a 28% increase compared to the previous year. However, GIAA's posted revenue for 2023 still shows a \$2 million decline compared to the \$10.4 million posted in 2019. Over the previous year, operating expenses increased by \$858,000 due to higher fuel, utilities, and borrowing costs. The net loss from operations significantly improved, \$1.7 million versus \$2.7 million in 2022.
- Given a scarcity of seats and continued travel restrictions, the Gander International Airport hosted just **104,533 domestic passengers**, just two-thirds of 2019. Domestic flight landings were up 5% over 2022 but just 57% of pre-Pandemic.
- The GIAA forecasts that total seat capacity for the summer peak of 2023 will be 75% of pre-pandemic levels. Air Canada will operate larger aircraft on its seasonal services to Montreal and Toronto this Summer, and total seats will recover to 90% of pre-pandemic levels for Q3-Q4 2024.

- YQX finished the year with 109,678 passengers, down 33% from pre-pandemic performance and a **modest 4% increase** over 2022. Again, the loss of capacity from Sunwing and WestJet, which vacated the market in various forms in 2022 and since merged, substantially impacted performance.
- International aircraft **technical stops** have recovered 80% of pre-pandemic levels.
- The GIAA invested **\$3.5 million in capital improvements** in 2023, emphasizing leasehold improvements, runway rehabilitation, and fleet renewal.
- The airport concluded a multi-year \$5.8 Million energy retrofit program to reduce oil consumption, emissions, and utility costs. Since assuming management of the airport from Transport Canada two decades ago, the GIAA has invested \$63 million in capital.
- Income from **land and building rentals** contributes \$2 million annually to the airport's finances. A new 12-acre lease was secured to add to the airport's broad lease portfolio. The airport also secured three new terminal tenants, meaning 95% of non-restricted space in the airport is leased and revenue-producing.
- Preliminary work and project design began on a new **\$10M cargo facility** project. The seafood storage facility will have water treatment systems, seawater storage tanks, and cold/chilled storage. It will store over 75 tonnes of fresh or live seafood, allowing for rapid offloading of delivered cargo from shippers and producers.
- Since reopening to the public in June 2022, the airport's famed **international lounge**, considered Canada's most important remaining modernist room, has attracted nearly 100,000 visitors, bus tours, community events, and

conferences. A new non-profit, the International Lounge Foundation, was formed in 2023 with a mission to conserve, curate, and celebrate Gander Airport's built heritage and legacy.

GIAA Chairperson Anne Manning-Moffit will conclude the maximum nine years of service in September, having Chaired the GIAA board since 2020.

"My service to the Board has been rewarding and made better by the great people around me at the Board table and in senior management," she said. "I'll think fondly of those I was privileged to work with over the years. With a committed crew and strong partners, we look forward and with confidence to better days."

The complete version of the Annual Report can be found online at <https://ganderairport.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GIAA-Annual-Report-2023.pdf>

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