INTRODUCTION
Mining was a major factor in the creation of Canada’s aviation (or air service/transportation) industry. Back in the 1930s and ‘40s, prospectors and mine developers were the chief customers of chartered air services being offered by bush pilots, and airlines carried the supplies and equipment needed to grow prospects into working mines. The air service industry grew accordingly. Today, air service is returning the favour by serving as the lifeline to remote communities and exploration and mining companies plying their trade in Canada’s North.

Airlines and the infrastructure required to support them (airports) are vital to northern Canadians. Year-round roads are limited in the North, and when winter roads aren’t available, air transportation is the only way in and out of many remote communities.

Despite the recent downturn, mining is one of the most important economic drivers in Canada’s north; and air service is essential for delivering oversized cargo to remote mining and exploration sites, and for the movement of crews and supplies.

As the economy in the north grows, so will demand for air services.

Forestry has also shown that it depends on air service. Provincial and territorial governments attempt to minimize the number of resources destroyed by forest fires, and rely heavily on air transportation to move fire crews, equipment, fuel and supplies. They also use specialized aircraft to suppress forest fires.

Following are the airlines flying the skies in our Mid-Canada region (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northern Ontario and Canada’s three territories):
**AIR BRAVO CORP.**

**BASES:**
Barrie and Thunder Bay, ON

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Tel: 866-323-0037

**FLEET:**
The PC-12 can get the job done most quickly and efficiently. It boasts a powerful combination of size, speed, economy, and advanced design. It was nominated the safest aircraft in the world, partly due to the reliability of the engine. The PC-12’s large cargo door, measuring 53 in. x 52 in., can accommodate large freight and allows for easy loading and unloading. This pressurized aircraft can cruise to 270 knots (500 km/h) to maximum altitude of 30,000 feet, thus avoiding low-altitude turbulence.

The PC-12 can be designed for a variety of passenger and cargo capacity needs (9 passengers, or 6 passengers and 1,100 lb. of freight, or 4 passengers and 1,600 lb. of freight, or a freight-only payload of 2,800 lb.).

**THE STORY:**
Air Bravo was founded in 2001 as a small, one aircraft air service in Northern Ontario. From this humble beginning Air Bravo has grown to become one of Ontario’s most successful air carriers.

**BASES:**
Winnipeg, MB; Secondary Hubs: Churchill, MB and Rankin Inlet, NU.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Toll Free: 800-839-2256;
Website: www.calmair.com.

**FLEET:**
The Dornier 308-310 Jet cruises at 470 mph and has an average range of 1,000 miles. It carries 30 passengers, a maximum payload of 8,000 lb., and can land on 4,300-ft. runways. It offers jet service at near turbo-prop pricing. The ATR 42-300 has seating configurations for 22, 34 or 42, and a maximum payload of 9,800 lb. Its average range is 700 miles and it cruises at 270 mph. The Hawker Siddeley 748 has been the ‘backbone’ of Calm Air for decades. It cruises at 225 mph has an average range of 650 miles.

The company derived its name from Arnold’s initials – Carl Arnold Lawrence Morberg. Recognizing the importance of reliable air service to their camp and guests, Arnold earned his pilot’s license and purchased a small single-engine floatplane. By 1962, Calm Air had a charter license at nearby Stony Rapids and moved not only guests and supplies to Morberg’s camps, but also served the needs of surrounding communities as well.

In 1969, the Morbergs bought Fred Chupka’s Northern Manitoba airline operation based in Lynn Lake, MB. Soon after, Calm Air began scheduled Twin Otter passenger service throughout the area. Lynn Lake would become home base for both the Morbergs and their company over the next 16 years, as the duo raised their four children and expanded the business. The ’70s saw construction of new hydroelectric power facilities and mining exploration, creating the opportunity for rapid growth in northern Manitoba and for Calm Air. Today, in addition to maintaining scheduled service into communities within Manitoba and Nunavut, Calm Air offers air charters to just about anywhere in Canada.

**CHARTER CONNEXIONS**

**BASES:**
Winnipeg, MB

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Toll Free: 888-831-8472;
Website: www.charterconnexions.ca.

**FLEET:**
ATR 42, ATR 72, Dornier 328-Jet, Pilatus PC-12, Dash 8-300, Dash 8-100, Metro II, Metro III plus a variety of helicopter models.

**THE STORY:**
Charter Connexions began in 2016 as a logistics solution for charter customers of Calm Air, Custom Helicopters, Keewatin Air, and Perimeter Aviation. Its main focus is enhancing the charter experience through improved customer care.

The Charter Connexions team understands their clients have had different customer experiences with their companies, so they want to ensure the best service available by combining the group of companies’ strengths – and growing them. Charter Connexions can help arrange optimum flight routing, find the best port of entry for cross-border flights, arrange ground handling or find accommodations in challenging locations. The team works closely with sister companies Provincial Airlines and Bearskin Airlines, to coordinate flights in other Canadian locales.
MISSINIPPI AIRWAYS

BASES: Headquarters are in The Pas, MB, with offices in Winnipeg, Thompson, Norway House and Pukatawagan, MB.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Toll free: 877-600-7160; Website: www.missinippiair.ca.

FLEET: Missinippi Airways boasts nine aircraft, 5 King Airs and 4 Navajos.

THE STORY: Missinippi Airways/Missinippi Air-Care is a customer and patient care focused air service, formerly known as Beaver Air Services. It is the only 100% First Nations-owned airline in Northern Manitoba and has been in operation since 1989. Missinippi offers executive charters and freight service throughout Canada.

Missinippi Airways provides a daily scheduled flight service to its owner community, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, as well as medivac services to communities in Manitoba and across Canada. Missinippi Airways represents the Air Charter and Scheduled Flight Division of the company and Missinippi Air-Care, with its on-staff registered nurses, the Air Ambulance Division.

(Editor’s Note: See more on Missinippi Airways in our Sidebar on page 19.)

FAST AIR

BASES: Winnipeg (HQ)


FLEET: Fast Air boasts a charter fleet of 20 aircraft including turbo-prop, rotary wing and business jet aircraft.

THE STORY: Since its start as a business aviation company in 1995, Fast Air has grown to provide a full range of aircraft services. Providing aircraft expertise in sales, avionics, maintenance, aircraft management, charter services and an outstanding FBO location at its headquarters in Winnipeg. Fast Air Executive Aviation is known and trusted for its safety and quality and is considered a leader in Canadian business aviation.

At Fast Air the formula is simple: a completely satisfied customer... from a perfectly safe and enjoyable flying experience.

Fast Air offers Manitoba’s largest charter fleet of Turbo-prop, rotary wing and Business Jet Aircraft, with a fleet of 20 aircraft to meet your needs. Fast Air Operates out of a private, executive class terminal at the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport.
PERIMETER AVIATION

BASES:
Winnipeg and Thompson in Manitoba, and Sioux Lookout in Ontario.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Toll Free: 800-665-8986; Website: www.perimeter.ca.

FLEET:
Perimeter has over 30 aircraft in its fleet capable of carrying between 6 and 50 passengers. Aircraft types in the fleet include:
- Dash 8-300s
- Dash 8-100s
- Metro III
- Metro II
- Merlin (Executive Charter)

THE STORY:
Established in 1960, Perimeter Aviation has grown into a diversified regional airline providing scheduled flight services for many remote communities in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. On average, Perimeter flies over 160,000 scheduled passenger flights, and ships more than 10 million pounds of freight each year. Perimeter is also an Air Ambulance provider with the Manitoba Health Emergency Services Branch, capable of providing air ambulance services for patients anywhere within Manitoba. There are approximately 575 employees; over 20% of which are of Aboriginal decent.

PORTER AIRLINES

BASES:
Main operating base: Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport; Porter regularly flies to 15 Canadian and 8 US destinations.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Toll Free: 888-619-8622; Website: www.flyporter.com.

FLEET:
Porter Airlines flies Canadian-built Bombardier Aerospace Q400 turboprop aircraft. The modern Q Series aircraft are the quietest turboprops flying today. With a maximum cruise speed of 360 kts (667 km/h) and outstanding airfield performance, the Q400 is easily as fast as most jets on routes under 500 miles (900 km).

THE STORY:
Porter Airlines has revolutionized short-haul flying with a warm and effortless approach to hospitality, restoring glamour and refinement to air travel. Porter is an Official 4 Star Airline® in the World Airline Star Rating® and also rated as Best Regional Airline in North America by Skytrax. The airline currently offers flights to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Moncton, Halifax, St. John’s, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Windsor, New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington, and Pittsburgh, and has seasonal flights to Mt. Tremblant, QC, Stephenville, NL, Myrtle Beach, SC, Burlington, VT, and Orlando-Melbourne, FL. Vacation packages are available at www.porterescapes.com.

IN THE NEWS:
Porter Airlines adds North Bay flights
Porter Airlines is introducing a new schedule for its daily flights between North Bay and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. The improved departure times allow business travellers from North Bay to leave home in the morning, complete a full day of meetings in Toronto, and return the same night.

There is also a wider range of connecting flight options to numerous Porter destinations beyond Toronto, including Ottawa, Montreal, Thunder Bay, New York, Chicago and Boston. During the summer, weekday flights will also have continuing service to and from Ottawa. This means passengers do not have to change planes in Toronto, making for the fastest total travel time between these two cities.

“We’ve been developing this route since we first came to North Bay in 2015,” said Robert Deluce, Porter’s President and CEO. “People have benefited from much lower competitive airfares since then, and now more can do so with convenient flight times.”

“These flights are a significant benefit for North Bay and the surrounding region,” said Al McDonald, Mayor of North Bay. “Our Airport Board was able to work with Porter to introduce a new schedule that I believe will appeal to even more business and leisure travellers. I encourage residents to take advantage of this service that gets you right to downtown Toronto at Billy Bishop Airport.”
RED SUCKER LAKE AIRLINES

BASES:

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Tel: 204-469-5388; Website: www.rslair.com.

FLEET:
• PA31 Piper Navajo Twin
• DH C2 Beaver on floats/skis.

THE STORY:
Red Sucker Lake Air Services specializes in servicing the remote communities of northeast Manitoba and northwest Ontario with intercommunity travel. After flying many DC-3 & DC-4s all over Northern Canada, Eddie and wife Stella Cull began Red Sucker Lake Air Services in 1982. Building a log cabin at a fly-in base initiated a variety of charters. Flying within the local area has provided community members with business and medical assistance in addition to hunting and fishing. Expansion of charters led into mining and geographical work in northern Manitoba and Ontario regions.

SUMMIT AIR

BASES:
Yellowknife (head office) and Norman Wells, NT; Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Calgary, AB; Terrace, Lillooet and Kamloops, BC.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Toll Free: 866-709-7717; Website: www.flysummitair.com.

FLEET:
ATR 72 – Summit Air utilizes four of these twin-engine turbo-props – two are dedicated freighters (including the new large cargo door model) and two are for passengers, each of them seating 68 people.

Avro RJ85 – Summit Air runs two of these 90-seat pressurized passenger jets on sectors up to 1,500 nautical miles. This aircraft is one of the quietest and ‘greenest’ in its class.

Avro RJ100 – This recently added aircraft can accommodate gravel runways and has seating for 110. It will visit NWT’s three diamond mines on a regular basis.

DHC-6 Twin Otter – Three of these high-winged, un-pressurized twin-engine turbine powered aircraft are in Summit Air’s fleet. They can carry 19 passengers or 1,500 kg (3,300 lb.) of freight.

Dash 8-100 – Summit Air’s two Dash 8-100s are pressurized twin-engine turbo props that can carry 37 passengers or 3,369 kg (7,428 lb.) of freight.

Dornier 228 – Five of these high-winged un-pressurized twin-engine turbo-props are in the Summit Air stables. Each can carry 19 passengers or 1,900 kg (4,100 lb.) of freight.

Piper PA-31 Navajo – This cabin-class twin-engine aircraft accommodates seven passengers.

SC.7 Skyvan – Summit Air’s pair of Skyvans are the ultimate in cargo transportation, each with a payload of 2,000 kg (4,500 lb.).

THE STORY:
Summit Air operates scheduled, charter and cargo air services covering Canada’s North. Started in 1987, Summit Air is a member of the Ledcor Group of Companies. In 2012, it acquired Arctic Sunwest Charters. Summit Air enjoys partnerships with a number of companies and communities including Kitamaat Aviation LP, Air Baffin, First Air and Det’on Cho Corporation.

IN THE NEWS:
Summit Air’s large cargo door ATR 72 freighter
Summit Air is pleased to announce the arrival of their large cargo door ATR 72, the newest member of the Summit Air fleet. Summit’s new aircraft is the only ATR 72 freighter in Canada that features a large cargo door.
Recently, MCFM sat down with Ricky Brenton, General Manager of Missinippi Airways to get his take on the industry and, in particular, his company.

ON MISSINIPPI AIRWAYS
We’ve been in business since 1989, when we were known as Beaver Air Services. Based in The Pas, Manitoba, we provide executive charter services, but our niche is our air ambulance service. We have nine planes in our fleet (5 King Airs, 4 Navajos). What makes us stand out from our competitors is our commitment to providing uncompromised safety, exceptional quality and unparalleled customer service. We never sleep! There is always someone from Missinippi keeping an eye on our operations – 24-7.

ON OWNERSHIP
We are the only airline in Manitoba that is 100% First Nations owned. Our owner community is the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation and their representatives make up our board of directors. Our current board is the best board I have ever dealt with – bar none. Their commitment to excellence and their business savvy is second-to-none. They are learning more and more about the aviation industry and, in the meantime, rely and have faith in our experienced staff.

ON THE MISSINIPPI TEAM
We are committed to having only the best people on our Missinippi team. Probably the greatest challenge in the aviation field today is human resources – getting the right people into your organization in the right positions. At Missinippi, we take our time during the hiring process to ensure we have new hires that are committed to the northern lifestyle. Once hired, we again take our time with training – we have a six-week training course that other companies run through in two or three weeks. Our approach appears to be working as we have many long-term employees and morale is at an all-time high.

ON THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING ECONOMY
There is no doubt the industries of forestry and mining are at low ebbs in their business cycles. Provincial governments must realize that it’s times like these when exploration should be helped out as much as possible, so that when the cycle starts to pick up, there are mineral deposits ready to be developed. For Missinippi, our niche is in air medevac, and the demand for that service stays relatively constant.

ON THE FUTURE
From 2012 to 2016, we doubled our business, and so far in 2017, business is up 20%. We want to continue this growth over the next few years. Our new equipment will be faster and carry more payload than before to increase our efficiencies. Our goal is to be the safest award-winning airline out there!

Summit Air’s new ATR 72 aircraft underwent a six-month refurbishment and conversion program by IPR Conversions Ltd. in Toulouse, France. As a result, it can now accept the industry standard, 108 inches by 88 inches, palletized cargo on its roller floor system for quick turnaround and improved efficiency. According to Devin Lyall, Assistant Director of Flight Operations, Ledcor Resources and Transportation, Summit Air, the conversion involved the use of 60 jacks to keep the aircraft perfectly level prior to cutting the hole to accommodate the large cargo door.

Summit Air invested $2.3 million USD in modifications and upgrades, including a next generation gravel runway kit (various protection devices and guards to combat flying stones) and new modern avionics that allow for full GPS precision approaches.

“Due to regulatory and maintenance restrictions on some aircraft types, the local marketplace supply of cargo aircraft was changing,” said Lane Zirnhelt, COO, Summit Air. “Summit decided to secure a new aircraft capable of fulfilling the needs of the local customers while meeting all of the new environmental and operational requirements. The modified ATR 72 freighter was the ideal solution.”

Boasting a payload of almost 9 tons, coupled with industry leading fuel efficiency and low operating costs, Summit Air’s newest ATR 72 aircraft is bringing affordable freight prices to Northern Canada.

Summit Air currently operates two ATR 72s in full passenger configuration and has configured two other ATR 72s into full freighter aircrafts – one with a standard-sized, 50 inches wide x 60 inches high, cargo door and one with a large, 116 inches wide x 71 inches high, cargo door.

With this acquisition, Summit Air will now operate a fleet of four ATR 72s. The ATR 72 was developed and built by the France-based aircraft manufacturer, ATR, one of the world leaders for regional aircraft up to 90 seats.

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THUNDER AIRLINES

**BASES:** Thunder Bay and Timmins, ON.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**FLEET:**
- Beechcraft King Air
- Mitsubishi MU-2
- Cessna Grand Caravan

**THE STORY:**
Thunder Airlines was founded in 1994 with one general goal in mind – to serve the Northern Ontario communities. Its specialized fleet of aircraft and friendly staff can accommodate you in a helpful way, and no matter what you need, are your northern connection. Thunder Airlines is one of the largest Medical Transfer contractors for ORNGE (Ontario Ministry of Health) and supply charter air service to many organizations in Ontario. It also operates scheduled passenger service to the coast of James Bay.

Thunder Airlines takes pride in its strong relationships with the people of northern Ontario, its strong safety record, and the fact that it has been able to grow and serve the unique demands of this industry in a professional, courteous way.

WEST WIND AVIATION/PRONTO AIRWAYS

**BASES:** West Wind Aviation/Pronto Airways has Saskatchewan covered with bases in Saskatoon, Regina, La Ronge, and Stony Rapids, as well as satellite locations in Prince Albert, Fond du Lac, Wollaston Lake, Uranium City and Buffalo Narrows.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Tel: 306-934-4285; Website: www.prontoairways.com.

**FLEET:**
- Beechcraft King Air 200
- Twin Otter 300
- Beechcraft 1900C
- Beechcraft 1900D
- ATP 42

**THE STORY:**
West Win Aviation/Pronto Airways offers charter flights, passenger services and affiliated aviation services. Pronto has been providing aviation services in northern Saskatchewan since 2006. It originally operated as a scheduled flight service, providing flights between Saskatoon, Prince Albert and the Athabasca Basin.

It has always been affiliated with West Wind Aviation, who saw the need for additional scheduled flights into the north with a focus on safe and friendly service.

In 2015, Pronto Airways’ scheduled flights became West Wind Aviation Scheduled Flights, giving greater operational capability and access to a diverse fleet of nearly 30 aircraft. West Wind Aviation and Pronto Airways are both First Nations businesses. Pronto Airways has also been designated an Aboriginal Business through the federal government’s Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business. Pronto Airways is also a Top 100 Saskatchewan Employer.

WINGS OVER KISSISSING

**BASES:**
Wings Over Kississing operates out of Winnipeg and St. Andrews in southern Manitoba, and several bases in Manitoba’s north, including Flin Flon, Thompson, Lynn Lake, and Churchill, as well as Mosquito Lake (NT) and Dubawnt Lake in (NU).

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**FLEET:**
Wings Over Kississing operates the most diverse fleet in the North. Its fleet of over 25 aircraft includes Cessnas, Piston and Turbo Beavers, Turbo Otters, a Beechcraft 99 Airliner, King Airs, a Grand Caravan and Bell Helicopters.

**THE STORY:**
Wings Over Kississing is Northern Canada’s ultimate 5-star air charter service. It provides air charter solutions from executive to wilderness travel, based in the heart of the Canadian Shield. With decades of experience and a fleet of over 25 aircraft, there is barely a cabin or airstrip in the north where Wings Over Kississing has not landed.

The company’s clients include lodge owners and outfitters, the mining industry, Manitoba Hydro, First Nations, government, hunters and trappers, business executives, tourists and private cabin owners. It also offers aircraft maintenance services, including structures, paint, and avionics to several companies throughout Canada who rely on our experience and expertise.
**ADVENTURE AIR**

**BASE:**
Lac du Bonnet, MB

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Tel: 204-345-8322;
Email: info@adventureair.ca

**FLEET:**
- **Cessna Grand Caravan** – Capable of a variety of jobs, this aircraft can accommodate 9 passengers or 3,200 lb. of freight.
- **Cessna Amphibious Caravan** – Another versatile aircraft, the Amphibious Caravan operates on land or water. It carries 9 passengers or 2,400 lb. of freight.
- **Piper Chieftain (Navajo)** – Accommodating 9 passengers or 2,800 lb. of freight, this is a versatile, cost-effective aircraft.

**THE STORY:**
Adventure Air offers services to remote fishing and hunting destinations, freight and passenger services throughout Manitoba’s northern communities, mining and explorations service (including remote charters and bulk fuel hulls), aerial and wildlife surveying, fire detection and aerial photography. Safety is paramount with the company and all Adventure Air aircraft are equipped with satellite tracking systems, which enables tracking of flights every step of the way.

**AIR NORTH**

**BASES:**
Air North’s hub is in Whitehorse, YT. In the Yukon, it has scheduled flights to Dawson City and Old Crow. It also has scheduled flights to Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Vancouver, Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Ottawa.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0407 ext. 1;
Email: customerservice@flyairnorth.com

**FLEET:**
- **Boeing 737-500** – Air North boast four of these 122-passenger planes that have a maximum range of 5,600 km.
- **Boeing 737-400** – Air North has one of these 156-passenger models. It has a range of 4,989 km.
- **Boeing 737-200 Combi** – This aircraft can travel 11,278 km and seats 120 passengers. Air North has one in its fleet.
- **Hawker Siddley 748** – There are five of these in Air North’s fleet and they seat from 4 to 40, depending on cargo configuration. Its maximum range is 2,100 km.

**THE STORY:**
Joe Sparling and Tom Wood founded Air North in 1977. Their original intent was to offer charter flights to the mining industry and flight training services, but it didn’t take long for the airline to grow beyond that original vision.

By the early ’80s, the fleet had grown from a single Cessna 206 to a variety of aircraft on wheels, floats, and skis – until the airline acquired the famous Douglas DC-3 and DC-4 aircraft. Then Air North began offering scheduled flights within the Yukon and into Alaska. A decade later, Air North retired the Douglas aircraft in favour of Hawker Siddley 748 turboprops, and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation of Old Crow showed an interest in investing in the airline. That investment enabled Air North to purchase two Boeing 737 jets. In June 2002, Air North began flying between Whitehorse and Vancouver and connected the Yukon with Alberta, flying to Calgary and Edmonton.

Since then, the fleet has been modernized with Boeing 737-400 and -500 jets, and the company’s routes include Kelowna (2013) and an ambitious new flight connecting Whitehorse with Yellowknife and Ottawa (2014). The new route has won praise from passengers for the attention to detail, service, and in-flight meals.

Air North is one of the largest employers in the Yukon Territory, with over 250 full and part-time employees – in addition to the 250+ full and part-time employees who work in the Vancouver base, providing above and below the wing services for some of the world’s biggest airlines in addition to Air North’s own flights.

**IN THE NEWS:**
Air North expands fleet with two ATR 42-300 turboprops
On June 1, 2016, the first of two ATR 42-300s landed at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, becoming the latest addition to the fleet of aircraft owned by Air North, Yukon’s Airline. (The second ATR arrived later that summer.)

The ATR 42-300 is a turboprop aircraft seating up to 42 passengers. It’s used primarily for scheduled passenger service on the northern route to Dawson, Old Crow, and Inuvik.

“The Hawkers continue to serve us well, but we need to make long-term plans to modernize our turboprop operation so we can continue to provide safe and comfortable service to passengers on our northern route, well into the future.” said Air North Director of Flight Operations Ryan Kinney. “The ATR is an ideal fit for that need.”

Air North purchased the ATRs from First Air, closing the deal on May 26, 2016. The Vuntut Gwitchin Limited Partnership (VGLP) and Kluane Dana Shaw Corporation (KDSC), the business
arms for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) and the Kluane First Nation (KFN), jointly provided the financing for the aircraft.

“Local partnership, particularly with Yukon First Nations, has been integral to our success as a company and reflects our philosophy of ‘thinking Yukon first,’” said Air North President and CEO Joe Sparling. “In our experience, this approach has proven itself time and again, and we will continue to use it as a model moving forward.”

KDSC Executive Director Geordan Clark said, “As Kluane First Nation’s development corporation, we look for opportunities that have a good return on investment, that benefit our community, and involve reliable partners we can trust. This deal hits on all the marks. We are proud to partner with Air North. Their success is Yukon’s success.”

“This deal is a win-win for all parties, with spin-off benefits to the broader local economy,” said VGLP CEO Ron Daub. “First Nations are drivers of economic development in Yukon and partnerships like this one highlight the benefits and the opportunities that exist in the territory.”

VGFN owns a 49% stake in Air North. The partnership extends back to 2000, when the First Nation’s initial investment helped the company acquire its first Boeing 737 aircraft.

In addition to the new ATRs, Air North operates three Hawker-Siddeley turboprop aircraft and five Boeing 737 aircraft, with another 737 scheduled to enter service in July. Unlike many airlines that lease aircraft, Air North owns its fleet outright.

AURORA JET PARTNERS

BASES:
Edmonton, (head office)
Vancouver and Toronto

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Tel: 888-797-5387;
Email: sales@aurorajet.ca

FLEET:
Aurora’s Challenger 300s, Challenger 604, Challenger 605, and Global 5000 are all capable of intercontinental flights.

THE STORY:
Aurora Jet Partners is a Canadian-owned aviation business with roots going back over 40 years. Aurora operates and manages a fleet of business jets for large corporations, private companies, individuals, fractional owners, and charter clients. It sells both full aircraft and fractional shares of aircraft.

IN THE NEWS:
Aurora Jet Partners accept historic delivery
Bombardier Business Aircraft and Aurora Jet Partners of Edmonton joined forces in February 2016 to mark a major milestone in business aviation – the delivery of the 75th Bombardier Learjet 75 business jet. The milestone was reached slightly more than two years after the first Learjet 75 aircraft entered service in November 2013.

Tonya Sudduth, General Manager, Learjet Programs and Wichita Site, Bombardier Business Aircraft, presented the milestone aircraft to Bill McGoey, President, Aurora Jet Partners, as they take their business to the next level. [David Coleal, President, Bombardier Business Aircraft.]

Canadian North and its founding companies (Canadian Airlines, Pacific Western Airlines, Transair, and Nordair) has proudly served Canada’s North with passenger and cargo services for more than 80 years. Offering scheduled flights to 19 destinations, nearly 700 employees proudly serve the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, via the southern gateways of Edmonton and Ottawa. Canadian North is also the premier provider of fly-in/fly-out charter services for the large resource sector requiring safe, efficient and economical air transportation. Charter flights are also offered across North America for sports teams, cruise lines...
and large groups. Canadian North is a subsidiary of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, representing the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic.

Its mission is to be the premier air carrier serving Northern Canada. The company's inflight experience is one of service and comfort. Speaking to patrons in English, French and Inuktitut, Canadian North wants its customers to feel at home.

IN THE NEWS:
NEU, Canadian North air travel partnership
The Nunavut Employees Union (NEU) and Canadian North Airlines are pleased to announce the launch of a new air travel partnership agreement that will benefit NEU members and their immediate families.

“The NEU works for those that make Nunavut work and that is why we have chosen Canadian North Airlines as our air travel partner,” says Bill Fennell, President of the NEU. “This partnership makes it easier and less expensive for NEU members and their immediate family to travel. We choose our partners very carefully and are proud to team with Canadian North to offer any Member with a signed NEU membership card the chance to enjoy a way to fly worry-free at a negotiated, special NEU discount.”

On top of a special, negotiated rate, NEU members will also have the opportunity to earn both Aurora Rewards points and Aeroplan Miles each time they travel with Canadian North through Canadian North’s rewards program.

“We are very pleased to reach an agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union as their airline partner,” said Steve Hankirk, President of Canadian North. “Through hard work and investment, Canadian North has built a strong reputation for safety, reliability and exceptional customer service. Our almost 700 team members, many who are themselves union members, look forward to welcoming NEU members on board and offering our warmest Northern hospitality whenever they travel with us.”

“We want to make flying for NEU Members a great, even more affordable experience,” adds Fennell. “Those that make Nunavut work deserve the best travel experience possible and this partnership with Canadian North allows us to provide them with that.”

FIRST AIR

BASES:
Hubs in Ottawa, Edmonton, Iqaluit and Yellowknife.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Toll Free: 800-267-1247;
Website: https://firstair.ca

FLEET:
• 3 Boeing 737-400 Combi
• 1 Boeing 737-400 – all-passenger
• 7 ATR 42-300 Combi
• 6 ATR 42-500 – all-passenger

THE STORY:
First Air is wholly owned by the 9,000 Inuit of northern Quebec, through Makivik Corp., created to invest proceeds of the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Makivik Corporation, a non-profit company, purchased First Air in 1990. With 71 years of flying experience, First Air and its partners provide scheduled service between 32 Northern Communities and connections to Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

IN THE NEWS:
First Air – Summit Air working partnership extended and expanded
On January 16, 2017, First Air and Summit Air were pleased to announce the completion of a definitive agreement to extend and expand their working partnership for an additional four years. Under the agreement, Summit Air will provide charter passenger aviation services to First Air in support of its extensive Northern Canada network.

“Over the past two years Summit Air has worked closely with First Air to utilize our RJ85 jet aircraft to support First Air’s scheduled service network out of Edmonton,” said Lane Zirnhelt, COO, Summit Air. “We are very pleased to come to agreement with First Air to extend and expand this service for four more years.”

“Over the next four years, First Air will continue to use the Summit Air RJ aircraft fleet as we look to further optimize routes to best serve market demand and to meet our customers’ needs,” said Brock Friesen, President and CEO, First Air.

The original agreement which introduced the RJ passenger jet into First Air’s service offering, allowed for more efficient high aircraft utilization for both companies, and built a close partnering relationship.

Furthermore, First Air has committed to using Summit Air’s ATR 72 freighter aircraft to supplement its own ATR fleet where needed.

This agreement will continue to bring service flexibility to Canada’s northern communities, while allowing for potential growth and expansion in the future. Both companies look forward to furthering the strength of their partnership.
KEEWATIN AIR LP

BASES:
Winnipeg (head office) and Churchill, MB; Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, NU.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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FLEET:
The Beechcraft King Air 200/B200 is the most successful twin-turboprop aircraft on the market. Keewatin Air operates seven King Airs, dedicated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to air ambulance operations. The Learjet 35A is powered by two turbofan engines, can reach cruising speed of 510mph (440 knots), and has a range of 1,800 miles. Keewatin Air operates two LR35 jets, which are dedicated to their air ambulance operations. The Pilatus PC-12 aircraft is known for outstanding versatility, performance, reliability and operational flexibility; thus, it’s one of the most popular turbine-powered aircraft out there. With the large cabin, single-pilot capabilities, long range, high speed, and short-field performance, the PC-12 is a great aircraft for Arctic operational needs.

THE STORY:
Keewatin Air has operated in the rugged Canadian Arctic for 40 years, logging over 120,000 hours of medevac airtime in some of the most challenging conditions in the world. Although operating charter airline services, the company’s main focus is, and has always been, medical travel. Whether it’s moving passengers with medical needs on charter aircraft or transporting a critically ill patient on air ambulance, Keewatin Air has made medical travel its specialty. (Keewatin Air LP transports over 1,500 patients and flies over 2.3 million medevac miles annually.)