



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Therapy Dog Program Launches At Regina International Airport (YQR)

February 25, 2015: St. John Ambulance is pleased to announce the expansion of their Therapy Dog program into Regina International Airport. The stress reducing Therapy Dogs will be on hand to help soothe travellers.

The Therapy Dog program is designed to reduce anxiety and tension in many settings. Coordinated through St. John Ambulance, the dogs come in all shapes and sizes – breed and gender are not important. The dogs qualify through a national certification process and can then be available for programs in facilities such as hospitals, schools, and universities. More recently, the benefits of the program are being seen in airports. This is the second airport program in Saskatchewan.

“These dogs thrive in environments where they can brighten the day of those they meet,” comments Ashley Balysky, Community Services Coordinator with St. John Ambulance. “Studies have shown the benefits are both physical and emotional, with most (benefits) providing a degree of relaxation.”

Members of the media are invited to observe two Therapy Dog teams (dog and handler) in action at the airport on Thursday, February 26 at 9:30 am.

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