



**January 20, 2015**

**For immediate release:**

## **United Airlines Withdraws Denver Service**

United Airlines has notified the Saskatoon Airport Authority (SAA) and the Regina Airport Authority (RAA) that their twice daily service to Denver will be withdrawn effective February 28, 2015.

“This news is most disappointing,” stated Jim Hunter, CEO at the Regina Airport, “particularly when both communities are experiencing record growth, reflecting the province's outstanding economic performance.”

United Airlines indicated a number of circumstances as contributing factors to the cancellation in service including fleet replacement issues, the lower Canadian dollar, tough competitive pricing, and a robust American economy. “There is constant pressure in the industry for airlines to search for ways to reduce costs and improve their profit margins,” continued Hunter. “Often smaller markets such as Regina and Saskatoon fall victim to corporate decisions that are, of necessity, focused to increase profits to the airline”. “That is not to say,” Hunter continued, “that United would not return to the market should circumstances from their perspective become more favourable.”

“Our diverse Saskatchewan economy continues to be strong and there is opportunity for airlines to be successful and sustainable in our market,” comments Stephen Maybury, CEO of the Saskatoon Airport Authority (SAA). “We will promote our economic profile as we present the benefits to airlines of serving our transborder market and thereby improving air travel connectivity in Saskatchewan.” The RAA and SAA plan to join forces in their efforts to fill the gap left by United’s exit from the province.

Regina and Saskatoon are not the only airports affected by United’s decision to reposition their aircraft in routes considered more profitable.



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### **About Regina International Airport (YQR)**

Regina Airport Authority is a federally registered, not-for-profit corporation, with an 80-year lease to operate the Regina International Airport on behalf of the community and stakeholders. As Canada's 13<sup>th</sup> busiest airport, YQR is reporting its tenth consecutive year of record passenger growth in 2014 (a 2.9% increase over 2013 /1,262,577 total passengers). A proactive capital plan is in place to meet current and future demands, with a major terminal facility expansion scheduled in the next several years.

### **About Saskatoon International Airport (YXE)**

Saskatoon Airport Authority is a partner in developing Saskatoon and Saskatchewan by operating a world-class airport that is connecting Saskatoon to the world. YXE reported a 6.7% increase in passenger traffic for 2014 with over 1,480,000 passengers, marking the eleventh consecutive year of positive growth. YXE is currently Canada's twelfth busiest airport. A \$53 million air terminal building expansion is scheduled for completion in 2015.