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MEDIA RELEASE

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Thunder Bay Airport Sets New Passenger Volume Record

This past year saw Thunder Bay Airport (YQT) volumes hit an all-time high by hosting 844,627 passengers in 2017. Traffic grew by 4.6% over 2016 volumes.

Traffic volume growth was supported by a number of positive factors. Additional capacity offered by a number of airlines into northern destinations has contributed new volume. The early start of the winter charter season also brought new passengers to the airport.

Airport volumes also benefitted significantly from the Under 18 World Baseball Championships and the rise of international student enrollment at both Lakehead University and Confederation College.

Volumes are expected to be similar in 2018 according to President and Chief Executive Officer, Ed Schmidtke. "Special events hosted by our community will support airport volumes going forward. The hosting of the 2018 Ski Nationals is expected to draw up to 700 guests to Thunder Bay in March. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in September consistently draws 450 delegates. The Victory Cruise ship will see 400 passengers arrange air travel components through Thunder Bay Airport", said Mr. Schmidtke.

Passenger traffic growth has necessitated terminal building expansion. The secure departure lounge and the Customs Clearance Hall will both be expanded by the fall of this year. Speaking on the expansion, Mr. Schmidtke said "As Thunder Bay continues to grow its reputation as a national and international destination, the Airport will invest in facilities that will welcome our visitors and cost effectively support our daily operations."

About TBIAA

TBIAA is the private, non-shareholder corporation responsible for the operation of the Thunder Bay International Airport. TBIAA receives no government funding for the operation of the Airport. Economic activity related to the Airport is responsible for an estimated \$645 million dollars in GDP annually and over 5000 jobs.

Customers are encouraged to visit www.thunderbayairport.com for more information on services and facilities offered by Thunder Bay International Airport.

For more information, contact:

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