

Air Canada expands service to China with second daily Vancouver-Beijing flight, more Toronto-Shanghai non-stops

MONTREAL, Feb. 1 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada announced today that it is smoothing the route to Asia this summer by doubling its daily Vancouver-Beijing service and increasing the frequencies of its Toronto-Shanghai non-stop flights.

"Air Canada is securing its position as the leading North American carrier to China this summer by adding a second daily Vancouver-Beijing flight and improving its Toronto-Shanghai schedule. These added flights represent nearly a 50 per cent capacity increase for the growing Chinese market, which continues to thrive due to strength in both leisure and business travel," said Daniel Shurz, Vice President, Network Planning, at Air Canada. "With these enhancements Air Canada strengthens its position as the carrier with the most frequencies between Vancouver and China and as the only airline with non-stop service to China from eastern Canada."

The added Vancouver-Beijing daily flight will operate between July 1 and September 30, using a 211-seat Boeing 767-300 aircraft. The Toronto-Shanghai service will begin April 6 with service three days a week. Effective June 30, it will increase to daily service starting for the summer peak and continue as a three-day-a-week service for the 2007-2008 winter schedule.

In total, Air Canada will operate five daily non-stops between Canada and China this summer, the most of any airline. Customers will have the opportunity to enjoy Air Canada's premium Executive First Service, including lie-flat seats on new Boeing 777 aircraft on select flights (between Toronto and Beijing), take advantage of Aeroplan membership, and benefit from convenient connections made possible by Air Canada's extensive North American and international network.

Montreal-based Air Canada provides scheduled and charter air transportation for passengers and cargo to more than 150 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is the 14th largest commercial airline in the world and serves 30 million customers annually with a fleet consisting of 335 aircraft. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, providing the world's most comprehensive air transportation network.

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