



For immediate release

**CANADA'S LARGEST CARRIERS COMMEND GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ON
NEGOTIATING NEW OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL**

OTTAWA, August 8, 2011 – Prime Minister Harper's announcement today revealing an updated Open Skies type agreement between Canada and Brazil is welcomed by the National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC) as part of a balanced approach to air liberalization.

"NACC members seek to expand services in growing markets such as Brazil to better serve the needs of tourists and business travelers, which in turn contributes to overall economic growth in Canada," said George Petsikas, President of the NACC. "We are very pleased with today's announcement as it will provide the legal rights for airlines of both countries to operate scheduled air services as frequently as desired, thus facilitating greater opportunities for two-way tourism, business travel and student exchanges. In advance of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games both to be hosted by Brazil, the announcement is indeed timely."

The NACC strongly supports a balanced air liberalization policy framework for Canada that ensures a level playing field and provides maximum added-value reciprocal benefits for all stakeholders, including consumers, communities, airports, the tourism industry and Canada's airlines.

The National Airlines Council of Canada is a trade association founded by Canada's largest commercial airlines in order to ensure safe, sustainable and competitive air travel for Canadian consumers.

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