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Contact: Kelly Taft, MAG, 602-452-5020

Contact: Sky Harbor PIO at SkyHarborPIO@Phoenix.gov

February 22, 2018

Phoenix Welcomes New Air Canada Service to Montreal, Quebec

Phoenix, AZ – Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton joined nearly a dozen other Mayors, city and tribal leaders from Arizona to celebrate the launch of new air service to Montreal, Quebec, Canada today.

Air Canada Rouge will operate the new route between Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport from February 22 to May 28, three times per week. The flight will be served by an Airbus A319 aircraft. This new service to Canada will provide a vital link for visitors and the international business community.

Canada is a major Arizona trading partner with exports to Canada valued at more than \$2.2 billion per year. Last year, Arizona registered a \$755 million trade surplus with Canada, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, which tracks the value of imports and exports for U.S. states and metro areas. Many Canadian companies say they like sites in Arizona, because of the proximity to West Coast U.S. markets and major Mexican markets. According to City of Phoenix Community and Economic Development, there are more than 460 Canadian-owned companies in Arizona.

The economic importance of this new route was made clear by leaders from around Arizona who gathered for the inaugural service.

In addition to Mayor Stanton of Phoenix, Mayors from Maricopa, Surprise, Tolleson, Wickenburg, and Tucson, as well as the Vice Mayors of Flagstaff and Mesa, and Presidents of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community attended the launch of service.

Mayor Stanton is Chair of the Maricopa Association of Government's (MAG) Economic Development Committee, and today's event was held in partnership with MAG.

The new service to Montreal brings the total number of cities served by nonstop flights from Phoenix to Canada to 10. The newest connection to Montreal also provides additional access to Air Canada's global network. For more information on this new route as well as other new international service offered at America's Friendliest Airport®, please visit www.skyharbor.com/flyphx.

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Quotes from Arizona Elected Officials and Air Canada

Phoenix Sky Harbor is committed to offering the best international air service. With Air Canada's new flight to Montreal, we are better positioned to grow business and tourism with our friends in Montreal and throughout Canada.

—**Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego, District 8, Represents the district where Sky Harbor is located**

Air Canada is delighted to launch this new non-stop service between Phoenix and Montreal. We are offering up to five flights a day to Phoenix this winter from four Canadian cities. Many Canadians seek out the hospitality and warmth of Phoenix or travel for business reasons. This service also provides residents of Phoenix and surrounding communities convenient one-stop connections via our Montreal hub to destinations throughout Canada, Europe and elsewhere in Air Canada's global network.

—**Kevin Howlett, Senior Vice President, Regional Markets and Government Relations at Air Canada**

Montreal is an economic hub for aerospace and I welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with our Canadian counterparts.

—**Mesa Vice Mayor David Luna**

It is great to see new service continually being added at Sky Harbor. Not only are we offering our residents an easy getaway during the hot summer months, but we are also showcasing Phoenix to more areas of Canada.

—**Phoenix City Councilman Michael Nowakowski, District 7, Member of the Downtown, Aviation, Economy and Innovation Subcommittee**

I am pleased to see new nonstop service to Montreal at Sky Harbor International Airport. We love our friends to the North, and this service will provide a boost to our local economy not only through Canadian residents visiting, but also by bringing Canadian businesses to our area.

—**Phoenix Vice Mayor Laura Pastor**

We are honored to be a part of this historic moment. Improving travel and trade between Arizona and Canada can only bring benefits to both of us, economically and culturally. We look forward to this new partnership!

—**Maricopa Mayor Christian Price**

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is proud to share its history and heritage of hospitality with visitors, both near and far. The Community is home to two tribes and their story is woven into every inch of the Talking Stick Entertainment District, one of the Phoenix metropolitan area's hottest destinations. We look forward to sharing our story and vision of growth with our neighbors from Canada.

—**President Delbert W. Ray, Sr., Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**

Canada is Arizona's second-largest export market and a very important trading partner. I'm especially pleased to be visiting Montreal, which hosts some of the same industries as Tucson and Arizona. There's clearly potential for closer ties and more economic cooperation between the state of Arizona and the province of Quebec.

— **Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild**

I am thrilled to join my colleagues from across Arizona as we embark on this maiden voyage of Air Canada's nonstop flight between Phoenix and Montreal. Wickenburg's unique western heritage, highlighted by our award-winning museums, dude ranches, and golf, is a tourist draw for people not only in Canada, but across the world.

— **Wickenburg Mayor Everett Sickles**

This newest route offers nonstop service to a major international hub and Phoenix's second largest trading partner. We continue to push Phoenix to be more globally connected, and this direct line to Montreal is good for export-focused businesses and tourists alike.

— **Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, Chair, MAG Economic Development Committee**

Tolleson is focused on elevating the region's global profile to attract the utmost e-commerce operations. Its proximity to seven major transportation thoroughfares is enticing and provides connectivity to all prospective clients to every major market across the Southwestern United States.

— **Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar**

Air Canada's announcement to add a direct flight between Phoenix and Montreal is another excellent example of the powerful economic tool that is Sky Harbor International Airport. Through direct international flights, we are able to develop connections between the international business community and our local system of businesses and entrepreneurs. It is no wonder why Phoenix is consistently ranked as one of the top cities in the U.S for startups, tech jobs, and financial industry growth.

— **Phoenix City Councilman Daniel Valenzuela, District 5, Chairman of the Downtown, Aviation, Economy and Innovation Subcommittee**

The City of Surprise economic development strategy is laser-focused on the Canadian market in recognition of both the vast Arizona-Canada economic relationship and the incredible—and virtually untapped—growth potential. Surprise has much to offer Canadian companies and investors seeking a southwest US market for their North American expansion plans. Our Global Concierge program provides them a no-rent secure office space option for up to one year to help them get familiar with the area before securing a permanent location. We are also actively proposing to pilot a cross-border Canadian healthcare facility in Surprise that would offer medical services, covered by Canadian insurance, to the million Canadian visitors that travel to Arizona every year.

— **Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott**

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CONTACT: SKY HARBOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE - EMAIL: SKYHARBORPIO@PHOENIX.GOV

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