

## Did You Know?

As Canada's air navigation service provider, we're responsible for guiding aircraft safely through our country's airspace. Thousands of travellers benefit from our services every day, yet there are aspects of our business people are often surprised to learn. Here are some key 'behind the scenes' facts about NAV CANADA and how we operate.

### FACT: NAV CANADA IS A PRIVATE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMPANY.

We are the world's first fully privatized air navigation service provider (ANSP). Canada made the decision to privatize its air navigation system (ANS) in the early 1990s with the consensus of airlines, pilots, the government and other industry stakeholders. NAV CANADA became a unique, non-profit entity with the passing of the 1995 *Civil Air Navigation Services Commercialization Act*. A year later, we took responsibility for air traffic control, flight information and weather briefings, as well as aeronautical information and navigation aids. As a private company, our revenues come from our aviation customers, not the government. We recover the costs of providing air navigation services from our customers and do not bill passengers directly. With no shareholders, we can fully invest in our operations, people and infrastructure to deliver even safer, more efficient and more cost-effective air navigation services to our customers.

### FACT: WE DON'T MAKE CANADA'S AIR SAFETY RULES: WE FOLLOW THEM.

While we operate Canada's ANS, our role does not include enforcing safety rules or issuing fines for violations. Those responsibilities fall to Transport Canada, which develops and enforces the country's transportation safety regulations. Separating ANS operations from regulatory functions creates greater independence between service and safety requirements, ensuring we are all working with the best interests of air travellers in mind.

**1996**

NAV CANADA became  
the world's first fully  
privatized air navigation  
service provider

**100+**

staffed sites across  
the country

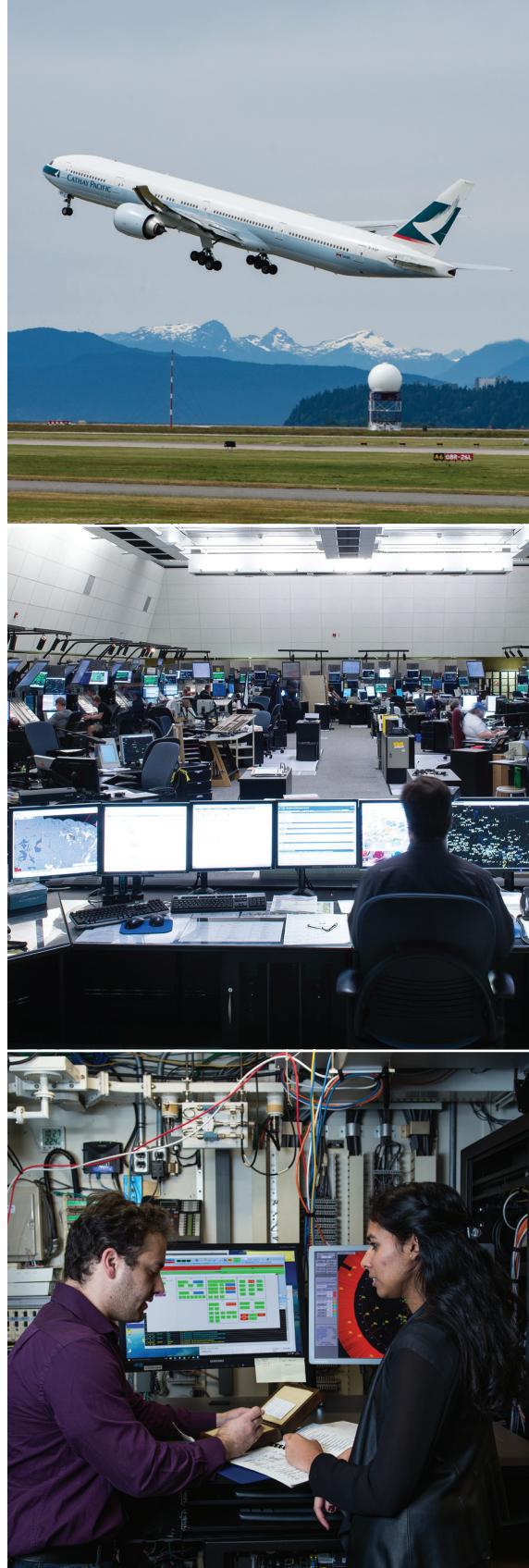
**18  
million km<sup>2</sup>**

of airspace managed by  
NAV CANADA services

## **FACT: THE ROLE OF A FLIGHT SERVICE SPECIALIST IS TAILORED TO THEIR LOCATION.**

Flight service specialists (FSS) in flight service stations have a direct view of the aircraft, runways and ground traffic around the airport. They provide advice to pilots for the safe arrival and departure of the aircraft, communicate with controllers to provide position report of aircraft and relay clearances to pilots.

The FSS working in the flight information centres have a different job and help pilots to prepare for flights and use tools to check on weather conditions, visibility, wind, temperature etc. to help pilots make the best decisions while flying the aircraft. They also help pilots to file a flight plan and are responsible to alert emergency services when an aircraft is in trouble.



## **FACT: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS COMMUNICATE WITH PILOTS FROM CONTROL TOWERS AND AREA CONTROL CENTRES.**

*Aircraft marshallers* use orange batons to direct planes around an airport's gate area, and are not employed by NAV CANADA. *Air traffic controllers* are NAV CANADA employees who provide pilots with takeoff and landing clearances, and issue instructions for safe, orderly traffic flow on runways and taxiways and in the airspace across Canada.

Movies and TV shows often portray air traffic control as a nerve-wracking, nail-biting position. It's actually a calm, controlled and carefully orchestrated occupation. Air traffic controllers are highly trained professionals who follow well-established international standards and use advanced automated systems to track and manage air traffic.

## **FACT: THE MAJORITY OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ARE NOT LOCATED IN CONTROL TOWERS.**

Many of our air traffic controllers are stationed at control towers and issue instructions and clearances to aircraft around an airport as well as on runways and taxiways. But a lot of them – in fact more than half – work in our seven area control centres, managing traffic flying between airports.

Our work also goes beyond day-to-day air navigation services: NAV CANADA engineers and technologists develop the air traffic management technologies used in Canada and around the world. We work closely with national and international partners to design and implement new standards that contribute to safe skies for all.

## **ABOUT NAV CANADA**

Since 1996, NAV CANADA has been responsible for helping civil aircraft safely navigate the 18 million square kilometres of Canadian airspace and the North Atlantic oceanic airspace under Canada's control. We manage a sophisticated network of area control centres, air traffic control towers, flight service stations, flight information centres and navigation aids across the country.

**For more information about  
NAV CANADA and Canada's  
air navigation system, visit  
[navcanada.ca](http://navcanada.ca)**