

Canada's First Indigenous Woman-Owned Airline to Launch March 2019 from YVR South Terminal

(VANCOUVER - September 21, 2018) - Today Iskwew Air, Canada's first 100% Indigenous woman-owned airline, will announce the commencement of service, starting March 2019 out of YVR's South Terminal. The announcement will be part of the airline's blessing ceremony and celebration, where Iskwew Air CEO Teara Fraser will seek the blessing and permission of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) representatives to operate within their traditional territory.

"This is a very exciting day," says Iskwew Air CEO, Teara Fraser. "Iskwew Air has been a vision of mine for many years and it is very important to me that Iskwew Air begins in a good way by seeking the permission and approval of the Musqueam people before operations begin."

The airline will offer charter services and has a vision to provide scheduled service to remote communities across the province in the future, increasing accessibility to transportation and bolstering Indigenous tourism.

"My homeland in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, is a fly-in-fly-out community, and I know how important connection and accessible transportation options are for remote communities," says Fraser. "Iskwew Air will provide services to communities like these and lead the industry by championing Indigenous people and culture."

Fraser is an experienced pilot, entrepreneur and leader in the BC aviation industry. She has extensive commercial aviation experience having developed, owned and operated Kîsik Aerial Survey Inc., which she recently sold, and through providing strategic and advisory services to commercial airlines. Fraser has also served on the BC Aviation Council for the last seven years in various capacities as Executive Director, Strategic Advisor and Director.

"We are excited to partner with Iskwew Air and look forward to what the future holds for this new airline," says Anne Murray, Vice President, Airline Business Development and Public Affairs at YVR. "Teara is a leader in the industry with a bold vision for the airline and has been involved in many successful aviation ventures throughout the years. It is our pleasure to work with her and Iskwew Air."

Iskwew Air and YVR will host a joint celebration to launch the airline in March 2019.

ABOUT ISKWEW AIR

Iskwew Air is the first 100% Indigenous woman-owned airline in Canada. Iskwew Air's vision is to connect people with each other and to the land. The company values the warrior spirit, love and adventure, and reclamation and reciprocity. As an Indigenous airline, Iskwew Air respects Indigenous cultures and people. Iskwew Air will provide a cultural experience to passengers from the moment they check-in, until they reach their destination.

Iskwew Air (pronounced ISS-KWAY-YO) is the Cree word for woman. This word was chosen as the name for the airline as an intentional act of the reclamation of womanhood, matriarchal leadership, and language; Iskwew Air celebrates all women and those who are lifting women.

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