

# Maritime Travel Business Travel Management



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## News Flash

April 14, 2021



**Federal Government, Air Canada Reach Deal On Relief Package That Includes Customer Refunds:** The federal government has reached an agreement with Air Canada that will provide the pandemic-battered airline with financial support — while committing the airline to refunding customers who saw their flights cancelled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At a news conference in Toronto on Monday, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said the government will provide Air Canada with up to \$5.9 billion through the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility, a program aimed at supporting large Canadian employers who have lost revenue due to COVID-19.



**WestJet Adds Flights To Domestic Summer Sked:** WestJet is ramping up its domestic summer schedule starting in June, with services restarted to a number of destinations in Western and Central Canada.



**Porter Aims For 21JUN Restart:** Porter Airlines has set 21JUN as a tentative date for resuming flights, as it looks ahead to restrictions easing for summer. “In recent weeks, there has been open discussion by government officials about easing travel restrictions based on expectations that vaccination programs will be well advanced in the U.S. and Canada by early summer,” said Michael Deluce, president and CEO of Porter Airlines.



**Turkish Airlines To Launch Non-Stop Istanbul-Vancouver Flights May 2:** Turkish Airlines plans to launch thrice-weekly, direct flights between Istanbul and Vancouver starting May 2, Turkish consul general Taylan Tokmak confirmed to BIV on April 8. The news comes despite the Canadian government advising Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel outside the country. The B.C. government advises British Columbians to not even leave their home community, unless the travel is essential.



**VIA Rail’s ‘Canadian’ Resumes Between Toronto-Winnipeg:** More transportation good news comes with the announcement that VIA Rail Canada is resuming partial service on its Canadian route next month, with trains once again operating between Toronto and Winnipeg. Weekly service between Winnipeg and Toronto restarts 17MAY, while Toronto to Winnipeg trains will run once a week starting 23MAY.



**Maritime Travel – TravelSmart: COVID-19 Health and Safety Resource Center:** Maritime Travel has compiled a one-stop resource for travel managers and travellers, offering accurate and up-to-date information on policies pertaining to all forms of travel. This online portal will consist of categories such as:

- [General Information \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Government Regulations](#)
- [Air Travel Regulations](#)
- [Hotel Updates](#)
- [Car & Ground Transportation](#)