



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Gander, NL - September 19, 2007**

**Marine forecasting returns to Gander**

Marine weather forecasts are once again being issued from the Newfoundland Weather Centre at Gander.

Marine, aviation and public forecasting were moved to mainland centres following a federal decision in 2004 to close the Gander weather office. The move prompted a massive groundswell of protest, including a 125,000-name petition presented to the federal government. Among the signatures on the petition was that of Prime Ministerial hopeful Stephen Harper, who pledged to restore weather services to Gander if elected.

Gander Mayor Claude Elliott noted that public forecasting was restored in January of this year, with seven meteorologists on staff. As of today, 23 of an anticipated 25 staff positions have been filled.

“Forecasting the weather in and around Newfoundland is a challenge at the best of times,” the Mayor observed. “Since public forecasting was brought back to this province we’ve already seen greater confidence in the quality of our weather reports. In the case of fishermen and other mariners, whose very lives can depend on accurate forecasting, I think you’ll be hearing a collective sigh of relief right across this province today. I thank the Prime Minister again for his diligence in restoring this valuable service.”

There are currently no plans to return aviation forecasting to Gander.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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