

Wasaya Launches World's First Dash 8-100 Freighter

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Thunder Bay, ON – Wasaya launched the world's first Dash 8 Package Freighter (DHC-8PF) into service this morning. The Company held a ceremony including community owners, Chiefs, dignitaries and officials from the airline as clergy blessed the aircraft. The aircraft is named the "Spirit of Paul Beardy", following a tradition at Wasaya of naming their new aircraft entering service after a distinguished Elder from one of their owner communities. Paul Beardy, a strong supporter of Wasaya, was from Bearskin Lake First Nation and a legend among First Nations people for having survived many life challenges, consistently focused on his family and community, setting a positive example for generations to come.

Adam Fiddler, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Wasaya said, "It is a true privilege to recognize Paul Beardy in this way. He was a true hero whose legacy of care for family and community is an example of a life well lived for all. We are honoured to have Elder Beardy's name on our aircraft."

The Dash 8-100PF gives an economically sound platform for Wasaya's regional freight market. With a 10,000 lb payload, the aircraft moves more cargo, faster and at a lower unit cost than any other aircraft.

"The Dash 8-100PF is a game changer giving Wasaya strategic advantage as we roll out our new business model," said Michael Rodyniuk, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wasaya. This aircraft gives Wasaya a unique competitive advantage, delivering on our mission to improve the quality of life for people living in communities we serve, by reducing the cost of delivering goods into the North."

Celebrating its 27th year in operation, Wasaya Airways is proud to be a 100% First Nations owned airline, flying to more than 25 communities throughout Ontario and Manitoba.

For more information please contact Sharon Smith-Baxter, Communications and Marketing Manager at (807) 474-2351 or ssmithbaxter@wasaya.com.

Wasaya Airways LP is 100% First Nations owned by 12 First Nations: Bearskin Lake; Fort Severn; Kasabonika Lake; Keewaywin; Kingfisher Lake; Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Muskrat Dam; Nibinamik; Pikangikum; Sandy Lake; Wapekeka; and Wunnumin Lake. Wasaya serves 25 destinations in Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba with 60 daily flights and employs 350 employees, of which over one third are First Nation.

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