



For Immediate Release

## Twin Otter 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Tour to Visit More Than a Dozen Northern Canadian Communities

**Victoria, British Columbia, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** In 1965, the first official Canadian flag flew over the Houses of Parliament, and the Twin Otter aircraft took its maiden flight. For the past 50 years, the Twin Otter has been an essential part of Canada's north due to its unique ability to perform reliably providing infrastructure support in the toughest and most challenging environments.

To honour the shared anniversary of the Canadian flag and the Twin Otter aircraft, and to recognize the aircraft's Canadian heritage, Viking will be conducting a special 50th Anniversary Celebration Tour travelling to communities in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

The tour will commence July 1<sup>st</sup> as part of the City of Victoria's Canada Day festivities, where a fleet of Viking aircraft will fly over the "Living Flag" display on the lawn of the Victoria Legislature. The aircraft will then depart on July 2<sup>nd</sup> for a two-and-a-half week flying tour to the North.

Viking pilots and dignitaries, along with a documentary film crew, will leave Victoria BC, and head to Yellowknife in two planes, including a Series 400 Twin Otter demonstrator affectionately known as "Viki." The team will stop at 13 different northern communities and locations, including Canadian Forces Bases in Eureka and Alert.

"Whether on wheels, floats, skis or tundra tires, the Twin Otter has been a lifeline of transportation, community connection and commerce for isolated regions, not only in Canada's north but around the world," commented David Curtis, Viking president & CEO, who is taking part in the journey. "This tour is an opportunity to connect with some of our customers and view their operations first hand, so I'm excited to personally visit so many of these northern communities in one extensive trip."

Sherry Brydson, chairman of the board of Westerkirk Capital, and her partner Rob McDonald, will also take part in the 17-day northern tour.

"The 50th Anniversary Celebration Tour is a way for us to pay tribute to the Canadian north and thank the valued pilots, passengers, owners, operators, mechanics and engineers who have contributed to the Twin Otter's success," Brydson said. "We hope to hear and document some of the unique and historic stories of residents who have been served by the Twin Otter since its first flight in 1965, and we're really looking forward to meeting people across the north with Twin Otter tales to share."

At 11 of the scheduled tour locations, a small celebration ceremony will be held at the local airport to recognize both the plane and the Canadian flag. In each of these communities, residents will be invited to view the Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft, share Twin Otter stories, and sign a wing rib for the 100th Viking production aircraft, scheduled to be built in 2016.

### **VERSATILITY THAT WORKS**

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VIKING is the manufacturer of the Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft, and provides complete support for the de Havilland legacy fleet.



The celebration ceremony dates, locations and times are:

<b>Tour Dates, Locations and Celebration Times:</b>	July 13 Whitehorse, 2:00 pm
July 3 Cambridge Bay, 1 pm	July 14 Inuvik, 3:30 pm
July 4 Resolute, 3 pm	July 15 Tuktoyaktuk, 10:30 am
July 5 Pond Inlet , 1:30 pm	July 15 Sachs Harbour, 3:30 pm
July 7 Gjoa Haven, 12 noon	July 16 Fort Good Hope, 1 pm
July 8 Yellowknife, 1:30 pm	July 17 Norman Wells, 1 pm

Said David Curtis, "We welcome all Twin Otter enthusiasts to join us at one of the scheduled celebrations and become part of the ongoing legacy of this remarkable aircraft."

**About Viking:**

The Series 400 Twin Otter is the best-selling next generation turbo-prop aircraft in its class, with Viking aircraft sold and delivered to 27 countries worldwide. Viking provides OEM support for the global fleet of de Havilland legacy aircraft (DHC-1 through DHC-7) and forms part of Westerkirk Capital Inc, a Canadian private investment firm with substantial holdings in the hospitality, aviation, and real estate sectors.

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The legacy de Havilland Twin Otter took its first flight 50 years ago on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1965.



Today, over 100 of the new Viking Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft have been sold to 27 countries worldwide.