

**Question on Notice  
No. 573  
Asked on 15 July 2015**

**MS GRACE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON K JONES)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister provide an update on the direct flights from Canada to Queensland and the benefits for the tourism business in the electorate of Brisbane Central?

**ANSWER:**

From June 2016, direct flights to Queensland from Canada will see visitor numbers lifted by around 12,000, the direct and indirect creation of up to 380 new jobs, and a boosting of the state's economy by up to \$24 million.

The Palaszczuk Government knows airline access of international markets is critical to the competitiveness of the Queensland tourism industry. That is why this Government committed an additional \$10 million to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund in the 2015 Budget.

Following successful negotiations, Air Canada will commence flights from Vancouver to Brisbane three times per week in June 2016. This is Queensland's second direct route from North America; the other being Los Angeles to Brisbane.

The new direct flight will reduce current travel time by five hours.

It is anticipated that Brisbane will be a major recipient of new tourist dollars expended by airline passengers taking up the opportunity to fly direct from Vancouver.

The Palaszczuk Government's support for this new service is a reflection of the increasing importance of this significant source market.

Queensland welcomed 55,000 visitors from Canada in the year to December 2014, which was an increase of 12.2 per cent on the year prior. Expenditure was up 4.7 per cent to \$127.2 million in the same year.