

Airport Intelligence

1 **HOW LOVELY WOULD IT BE** to stroll onto a plane without having to fumble with boarding passes and government ID? In early December, Air Canada launched facial recognition options for most domestic flights out of Vancouver International Airport (YVR) – with more airports to come. You simply walk up to a camera screen for a “faceprint” that verifies your identity. If you’re worried about privacy, you’re probably already using a similar technology to unlock smartphones and enter offices. And besides, this method is optional and only done if you sign up. —*Jennifer Bain*

2 **AIR CANADA IS PILOTING** a motorcoach service called Landline. It shuttles passengers between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Region of Waterloo International Airport or John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport. Add the bus segment for free when booking flights. Check in at a smaller airport, get your boarding pass and

hand over your bags before relaxing on a luxe motorcoach. Once you get to YYZ, you head straight to security while your checked bags are transferred. If the coach is delayed, you’re protected just like those who are flying. The idea is to ease congestion at YYZ and encourage people to use the airport instead of flying out of Buffalo or choosing other airlines. —*J.B.*

3 **LET’S NOT FORGET OUR CREATURE COMFORTS.** Airports can be places of pleasure, not just frustration. Edmonton International Airport has a short story dispenser that prints out free stories by local and international authors. Vancouver has Salmon n’ Bannock On the Fly, Canada’s only airport-based Indigenous restaurant. And I adore the circa 1959 international lounge at Gander International Airport in Newfoundland and Labrador (below). Restored and reopened to the public in 2022, it’s what the National Trust for Canada has dubbed “the most important modernist room in Canada.” —*JB*

