

## News Release

No. H 059/08

For release - February 22, 2008

### **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROVIDES FUNDING FOR AIRPORT SAFETY EQUIPMENT ON VANCOUVER ISLAND**

NANAIMO, B.C. — Two airports on Vancouver Island will enhance safety with new equipment, thanks to an investment by the Government of Canada through the 2008-2009 Airports Capital Assistance Program. Dr. James Lunney, MP, Nanaimo-Alberni, made the announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

Nanaimo Airport will receive \$178,100 to cover the cost of a runway sweeper. Campbell River Airport will receive \$218,700 to cover the cost of a runway sweeper and a sand spreader.

"This funding signifies that our government remains firm in its commitment to ensuring safety at airports in smaller communities," said Dr. Lunney. "This new equipment will also enhance the airports' operations, resulting in better service for airline passengers."

"The safety of the travelling public continues to be a top priority for our government," said Minister Cannon. "These projects will enhance safety at these airports on Vancouver Island."

In addition to Nanaimo and Campbell River, airports in Fort St. John and Fort Nelson are receiving a total of \$4.9 million for safety improvements. In total, B.C. airports are receiving over \$5 million in Airports Capital Assistance Program funding.

The Airports Capital Assistance Program finances capital projects related to safety, asset protection and operating cost reduction. Eligible airports must have year-round regularly scheduled passenger service, they must meet Transport Canada airport certification requirements, and they cannot be owned or operated by the Government of Canada.

Since its creation, the program has distributed over \$466 million for 562 projects at 164 airports. Over 99 per cent of these were airside safety-related projects such as the rehabilitation of runways, taxiways, visual aids and heavy airside mobile equipment.

A [backgrounder](#) on the Airports Capital Assistance Program is attached

- 30 -

#### Contacts:

Karine White  
Press Secretary Office of the Minister of  
Transport, Infrastructure and Communities,  
Ottawa  
613-991-0700

Media Relations  
Transport Canada, Vancouver  
604-666-1675

Transport Canada is online at [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca). Subscribe to news releases and speeches at [www.tc.gc.ca/listserv/](http://www.tc.gc.ca/listserv/) and keep up-to-date on the latest from Transport Canada.

This news release may be made available in alternative formats for persons with visual disabilities.

---

## BACKGROUND

### AIRPORTS CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Airports Capital Assistance Program provides funding for capital projects related to safety, asset protection and operating cost reduction. To be eligible, an airport must receive year-round regularly scheduled passenger service, meet Transport Canada airport certification requirements and not be owned or operated by the Government of Canada.

The current five-year program will allocate \$190 million by March 2010 – at an average of \$38 million per year. Contributions are considered for the following types of projects:

**First priority projects** include safety-related airside projects, such as rehabilitation of runways, taxiways, aprons, lighting and other utilities, visual aids and sand storage sheds. This category also includes related site preparation and environmental costs, aircraft firefighting vehicles, and ancillary equipment and equipment shelters that are necessary to maintain the level of protection required by regulation.

**Second priority projects** include safety-related heavy airside mobile equipment, such as runway snowblowers, runway snowplows, runway sweepers, spreaders and decelerometers (winter friction testing devices), and heavy airside mobile equipment shelters.

**Third priority projects** include safety-related air terminal building and groundside projects, such as sprinkler systems, asbestos removal and barrier-free access.

**Fourth priority projects** include asset protection and refurbishing, and operating cost reduction related to air terminal building or groundside access.

Transport Canada also sets priorities based on detailed technical analyses of facility conditions and maintenance histories, airport traffic and certification requirements.

To be eligible, projects must maintain or improve safety levels, protect airport assets or significantly reduce operating costs. Projects must also meet accepted engineering practices and be justified on the basis of current demand. Airport facility expansion projects will only be considered if the current facilities have a potentially negative impact on safety at the airport.

Through the Airports Capital Assistance Program, the Government of Canada is improving airport safety, as well as helping the economic viability of this important aspect of Canada's transportation infrastructure.

The Airports Capital Assistance Program is part of the National Airports Policy, which calls for the commercialization of designated Canadian airports, through divestiture to community interests. The policy enables communities to take greater advantage of their airports, reduce costs, tailor levels of service to local demand, and attract new and different types of business.

February 2008

