



CAMPBELL

# Airport growth set to begin

## Premier comes to Nanaimo for event

KRISTA CHARKE DAILY NEWS

Seven shovels were plunged into the earth on Saturday, to mark the groundbreaking event for the first stage of the expansion of the Nanaimo Airport.

B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell was on hand to celebrate the start of construction for the new 480-metre expansion of the runway, which will allow larger planes and more airlines to land in Nanaimo. The expansion will open the doors for direct regional flights to places around the province including Calgary and Edmonton and also to sun destinations including Hawaii and Mexico.

The plan has been in the works for four years and it will also include the addition of high-intensity lighting, landing instrumentation and other improvements to increase reliability, at an estimated cost of \$16.4 million. The project is scheduled for completion by November.

Phase 2 of the project, a new terminal building, parking lot, road expansion and water and sewer treatment systems, is planned for completion in 2011. And Phase 3 includes adding a full-time fire department and more road and parking improvements, to be finished by 2018.

"This runway is an expansion into the future. It says we have confidence in your future and we have confidence in you. Even in these difficult times we're all going to roll up our sleeves, we're going to get to work and build a better British Columbia. That's what you're doing and I'm looking forward to the opening of the new extended runway at Nanaimo Airport," said Campbell.

Jerry Pink, chairman of the Nanaimo Airport Commission, said the expansion will not only attract new business to Nanaimo, but also to the rest of the Central and North Island.

"The airport expansion will help pave the way to a brighter future with the new economic growth in our region," said Pink.

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