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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Area Food Banks the Big Winner in Airport Campaign**

*Nanaimo, British Columbia (January 23, 2014)* —Central Vancouver Island food banks will be able to help even more families this January, thanks to the resident support of the CAN-nections 2013 campaign.

The Nanaimo Airport, along with sponsors Country Grocer, Remax Nanaimo, Dodd's Furniture, Air Canada and Glacier Media Group, hosted a six week food drive to help fill the shelves at five community food banks in 2014.

"We're pleased with the results of this campaign and look forward to continuing to grow the campaign in future years," says Nanaimo Airport President & CEO, Mike Hooper. "I would like to express a special thank you to our sponsors and residents that contributed to make this a successful program."

In total over 3,000 lbs of food was donated by area residents and participating sponsors as a part of the Feed the Need challenge. The donated food from the CAN-nection campaign will be heading to food banks shelves in Nanaimo, Parksville, Ladysmith, Duncan and Port Alberni.

"Based on residents donations at the Airport, Ladysmith came out on top with nearly 41% of the food donation, followed by Nanaimo at nearly 24% and Duncan, Parksville and Port Alberni donations were all between 10% and 15%," explains Hooper.

Not only will the food banks receive the donations made by the residents, but the 2,200 cans used to build the canned food village will be allocated to the communities based on donation support. That means Ladysmith food banks also receive 901 of the cans, while Nanaimo received an additional 500 cans and the remaining communities will receive about 250 cans each in addition to the community contributions.

Congratulations to Bev Doumont of Nanaimo who won the two return tickets in North America donated by Air Canada.

**About Nanaimo Airport (YCD):**

Nanaimo Airport is a ten-minute drive south of downtown Nanaimo on 224 hectares (550 acres), which includes the nearby Cottonwood Golf Course. YCD is a not-for-profit authority owned by the Nanaimo Airport Commission. Vancouver Island's third largest airport, Nanaimo Airport serves a primary central Vancouver Island area with a total population base of approximately 250,000. The YCD service area extends north from Nanaimo to Qualicum, west to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and south to Duncan and the Cowichan Valley. YCD is ideally situated as the most convenient departure/arrival point for customers from the mid-Island area.

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**Photos:**

**Winner Claims Prize:** Left Norm Schmidt, Air Canada Jazz Lead; Centre Bev Doumont, Contest Winner; Right Mike Hooper, President and CEO Nanaimo Airport

**Winter Wonderland:** The Winter Wonderland canned food village that was created in the main terminal at the Nanaimo Airport for the campaign

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