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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nanaimo Airport Set to Welcome Air Canada Service to Calgary

Nanaimo, British Columbia (April 29, 2015) -- This week the Nanaimo Airport welcomes additional non-stop daily service between Nanaimo and Calgary, providing central Vancouver Island residents and businesses even more connections to the world. The inaugural Air Canada Express flight, operated by Jazz Aviation, will arrive in Nanaimo on Friday, May 1 at 1:43 p.m. and depart at 2:15 p.m.

Nanaimo Airport Commission will mark the milestone with an in-terminal celebration which includes a barbecue open to everyone. Free hotdogs, snacks and beverages will be served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the central Island's airport of choice. The new service, which uses a 74-seat Bombardier Q400, further boosts the airport's position as the central Island's gateway to the world.

"Schedules that provide choice is the key to Nanaimo Airport's continued growth to ensure safe, reliable transportation for Central Vancouver Island residents," says Mike Hooper, President and CEO of the Nanaimo Airport. "The expansion of this additional service to Calgary is a major indicator of how strongly our region is supporting Air Canada's gateway route from Nanaimo to Vancouver." With those flights at near capacity, this new route will provide additional Air Canada seats for those travelling to Eastern Canada and the world.

"We are looking forward to welcoming customers from the central Vancouver Island area on board our upcoming Air Canada Express flights to Calgary starting May 1," said **Kevin C. Howlett**, Air Canada's Senior Vice President of Regional Markets. "As a celebration of one of our new routes being launched, we will be giving away two tickets to anywhere Air Canada flies in North America to one of the lucky passengers onboard our inaugural flight. This new route will be of interest to people travelling between Vancouver Island and Alberta for business and pleasure, and as the flights connect conveniently at our Calgary hub, the flights provide more choices for Vancouver Island residents to travel to other destinations across Canada, the US, Europe and beyond."

Air Canada Express also has eight daily flights from Nanaimo to Vancouver in its summer schedule.

This year approximately 300,000 passengers will fly in and out of Nanaimo Airport. Passenger numbers have climbed by more than 70 per cent since 2008, thanks to the completion of the airport's runway expansion.

About Nanaimo Airport (YCD):

Nanaimo Airport (YCD) is a 10-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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