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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Expanded Apron Project Enhances Airport Safety and Economic Impact

Nanaimo, British Columbia (*March 29, 2017*) — Thanks to the BC Air Access Program, the Nanaimo Airport will soon begin an expansion of the northern apron that will improve safety and provide a robust and durable aircraft apron to reduce congestion airside. This \$351,215 infrastructure project funded through a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure program will be completed in the coming months.

The BC Air Access Program (BCAAP) provides capital cost-sharing contributions to airport infrastructure projects that will result in significant, incremental safety upgrades, economic benefit, or the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure.

“The Nanaimo Airport is a significant economic driver in our region, bringing hundreds of thousands of people to the island year after year, which is why our government supports infrastructure improvements which continue to expand the airport’s ability to better serve residents and tourists alike,” said Michelle Stilwell, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum.

“The Nanaimo Airport Commission appreciates the tremendous support provided by the Provincial Government for our infrastructure projects through programs like BCAAP as well as the Infrastructure Canada and the Small Community Fund that was announced a couple weeks back,” says Lucie Gosselin, Board Chair of the Nanaimo Airport. “We would not be able to keep up with infrastructure projects without this type of support.”

Record-setting growth of 108% in the past 6 years underscores why the expansion is needed. “We are 10 years ahead of passenger forecasts and several times a day all three aircraft parking positions are being utilized simultaneously”, says Michael Hooper, President and CEO of the Nanaimo Airport. “For us to continue to grow air services, we need to expand the apron to allow four aircraft to be at the terminal.”

New projections estimate 450,000 passengers annually will use the Nanaimo Airport by 2020. Based on those forecasts, the Nanaimo Airport will remain a major economic catalyst for the central Island into the future and is estimated to contribute 2,000 jobs and \$358 million in economic activity annually to the region by 2021.

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 260,000. The YCD service area extends north 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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