



Nanaimo Airport
P.O. Box 149 3350 Spitfire Rd
Cassidy, BC Canada V0R 1H0
Ph (250) 245-2157 Fax (250) 245-4308

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WestJet Encore Expands Service From Nanaimo, Providing More Access to Sun Destinations For West Coast Residents and Boosting Economy

Nanaimo, British Columbia (October 10, 2017) —WestJet today announced the launch of new daily service between Nanaimo and Vancouver. The service will be operated by WestJet's fleet of Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

"The community has been asking for this service for several years, so we are thrilled to make this announcement today," says Nanaimo Airport Commission Chair Lucie Gosselin. "People who live and work in Tofino, Ucluelet and elsewhere in Central Vancouver Island gain easier access to a network of non-stop flights across Canada, the US, and sun destinations including Hawaii and Mexico."

The Q-400 aircraft has 78 seats and will have a travel time of about 15 minutes.

The new daily flight starts Thursday, December 14, 2017. It will arrive at Nanaimo Airport (YCD) at 12:38 p.m. and depart for Vancouver at 1:10 p.m. This will be in addition to WestJet's two daily flights to Calgary, and to Air Canada's daily flight to Calgary and nine daily Air Canada Express flights from Nanaimo to Vancouver.

It's convenient, and faster and affordable, to fly out of Nanaimo to start a trip rather than worry about catching a ferry and then getting to the airport in Vancouver.

The new daily service has many benefits for the West Coast and the rest of the Central Island, including:

- Making travel more convenient within B.C., to other parts of Canada, and to the West Coast of the U.S.

From Vancouver, travellers have direct access to Kelowna, Prince George, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Toronto, as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco, and many other destinations

- Boosting the economy and creating even more opportunities for business owners, investors and workers

With direct connections from Vancouver, new markets, customers and jobs can be pursued from a base in Tofino or Ucluelet.

[MORE]

- Increasing the West Coast’s profile around the world

Canada’s two largest airlines will be promoting flights to the Central Island, in addition to the marketing done by Nanaimo Airport. This will help the Tofino and Ucluelet tourism and other business sectors and may help attract more investment in the region

“Developing service is key to Nanaimo Airport’s continued growth to ensure safe, reliable transportation for Central Vancouver Island residents,” says Mike Hooper, President and CEO of Nanaimo Airport. “This announcement is a major indicator of how strongly the Mid-Island region is supporting WestJet Encore service.”

Since 2006, passenger volumes at Nanaimo Airport have more than doubled.

To continue providing the safe, affordable and convenient service that has made YCD the Central Island’s airport of choice, the commission is planning a multi-million-dollar expansion of the air terminal building. The expansion will enhance customer comfort and provide more space for baggage and security screening.

END

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.

-end-

Media Contact:

Nanaimo Airport

Mike Hooper

President and CEO

t: 250 245 4191

c: 250 716 6625

e: mhooper@nanaimoairport.com

w: www.nanaimoairport.com