

Subject: Comox Valley Airport BCAAP Grant - Request Letter of Support

Good afternoon CAOs,

Again this year, the Comox Valley Airport is applying for a BC Air Access Program ([BCAAP](#)) Grant to offset the costs associated with our upcoming Apron Expansion Project. This project will expand the apron to the northwest to the fence line shared with the Air Force Museum Air Park with a retaining wall. The expansion is necessary to correct safety issues realized due to the increased size of aircraft servicing the airport extending well beyond the current safety lines, and into the designated space to taxi aircraft. The project will also enable us to incorporate pushback operations which will correct the numerous jet blast incidents that endanger passengers, staff, equipment and the building, as well as improve the customer experience by bringing larger aircraft closer to the terminal. This project is the first step in progression of our Master Plan which will lead to the final step of terminal expansion.

We have just completed the design phase of the project and are currently out to tender for the construction phase. The overall project is expected to cost \$4 million, and we are seeking up to \$2 million in grant funding.

As in previous years, one of the key evaluation criteria for the grant is 'Community Support,' with projects scored on a continuum from 'community opposition' to 'strong community support.' I would again like to request letters of support for our project to reinforce the importance of maintaining excellent air connectivity for the Comox Valley and the broader Vancouver Island communities.

The BCAAP program was delayed this year due to the provincial election, and submissions are due by March 21, 2025. However, in previous cycles, letters of support have been accepted after the deadline. That said, we would greatly appreciate receiving your letters as soon as possible to ensure they are included in our submission.

As a quick recap, the airport has been a successful applicant over the last few years with your support, securing funding to install solar panels, convert landscaping equipment to electric, and purchase an electric belt loader, ground power unit, and light utility vehicle. Unlike these past projects, this year's submission is primarily focused on safety.

Please find below some suggested wording for your consideration:

The Comox Valley Airport is a vital transportation hub for the Comox Valley and the entire North Island, serving as a major economic driver for our community. As more people relocate here, reliable air service has become essential for both business and personal travel. This growth has resulted in larger aircraft regularly servicing the airport, decreasing safety margins at an airport that was designed 25 years ago to accommodate smaller regional turboprops.

We commend the airport's role in regional economic growth and recognize its importance in meeting the evolving needs of residents and businesses. Proactively addressing future demand, the airport developed a Master Plan identifying the need for expanded capacity. As a first step, it is launching an apron expansion project to enhance safety and accommodate larger aircraft.

To complete this critical project, funding is essential. We strongly support the BC Government's assistance through the BC Air Access Program (BCAAP), ensuring safer and more efficient air

services for all British Columbians. We urge you to recognize our community's strong support for the airport's BCAAP grant application, reinforcing its commitment to exceptional service for the Comox Valley and beyond.

In addition to improving safety, this expansion will contribute to long-term operational efficiency and position the airport to accommodate future growth, benefiting residents, businesses, and visitors alike. As with all our infrastructure projects, environmental stewardship remains a priority throughout this process.

Should you require any additional information or have any questions about our application, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you again for your continued support.

Best regards,

Mike

Mike Atkins

CEO

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The Comox Valley Airport Commission respectfully acknowledges that the land we gather on is on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.