

**From:** Mike Atkins

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:28 AM

**Subject:** YQQ BCAAP Grant Letter of Support

Dear Local Government and K'ómoks First Nation Leaders,

Once again this year, the Comox Valley Airport is preparing an application to the BC Air Access Program ([BCAAP](#)) for grant funding to support the acquisition of battery electric aircraft pushback tractors. With the airport experiencing significant passenger growth, this project is a critical enabling step for our future terminal expansion and builds directly on the recently completed Apron Expansion Project. The introduction of pushback operations will allow larger aircraft to park closer to the terminal, improving safety, operational efficiency, and the overall passenger experience. At present, jet blast associated with power in and power out operations presents safety risks to passengers, staff, equipment, and terminal infrastructure. Transitioning to a pushback solution directly addresses these risks while allowing the airport to better accommodate the larger aircraft that now regularly serve the Comox Valley.

This initiative represents the second phase of our Airport Master Plan, following apron expansion and preceding terminal expansion. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$900,000, for which we are seeking up to \$675,000, or seventy five percent, in BCAAP funding. As in prior years, community support is a key evaluation criterion under the BCAAP program, with applications assessed along a spectrum ranging from community opposition to strong community support. We are therefore requesting letters of support from our local Councils to demonstrate the broad regional value of this investment and the importance of maintaining strong and safe air connectivity for the Comox Valley and the broader Vancouver Island.

The BCAAP intake was delayed this year, and applications are due by January 17, 2026. While letters of support have been accepted after the submission deadline in previous cycles, we would greatly appreciate receiving your letters as early as possible to ensure they are included with our application.

By way of background, with your continued support the airport has been a successful BCAAP applicant in recent years, securing funding for solar panel installation (2023), the electrification of landscaping equipment, an electric belt loader and light utility vehicle (2023), an electric ground power unit (eGPU – 2024) and, most recently, the Apron Expansion Project (2025). This year's application is primarily focused on enhancing safety

while continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of battery-powered vehicles rather than their cheaper diesel alternative.

For your convenience, suggested language is provided below. Please feel free to tailor it to reflect your organization's perspective and priorities.

"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 with a power in, power out configuration.

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 second step following the recent Apron Expansion Project, it is launching a Battery-Electric Pushback Tractor Solution Project to safely accommodate larger aircraft closer to the terminal and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

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."

Should you require any additional information, clarification, or supporting materials, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind regards,

Mike

**Mike Atkins, CEO**

