

Ms. Kate O'Connell
Director of Corporate Support Services
City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Avenue
Courtenay, BC V9N 2J7

03 January 2023

Dear Kate,

I am writing to request a letter of support from the City of Courtenay for two new Airpark projects for which applications were submitted to the Government of BC on 22 December 2022 under the 2023 BC Air Access Program (BCAAP).

The Courtenay Airpark Association became aware of the call for submissions in early December, with a deadline of midnight, 22 December for submitting the 2023 grant applications. Given the short notice and the approach of the 2022 Holiday Season, the BCAAP program coordinator agreed for submissions to be made by the deadline with formal letters of support to follow in the early New Year.

The projects for which we have submitted applications, in view of improving the infrastructure and the operational effectiveness of the Courtenay Airpark are as follows:

1. Floatplane Dock Replacement:

The Courtenay Airpark is one of the few remaining facilities in BC that supports both floatplanes and wheeled aircraft. The current floatplane dock has deteriorated substantially over the years, and king tides combined with high river flows have damaged the dock further. This dock has a capacity of up to three float planes at a time and provides access for tourist charter flights and privately-owned floatplanes on a regular basis, in particular during the summer months. In order to ensure that access to the floatplane dock remains safe and effective, it is desirable to replace the dock at the earliest opportunity. Financial support for the project has therefore been requested from the BC Government under the BC Air Access Program for 2023, at a total estimated cost of \$85,226.25; and

2. Paving of a Dedicated Air Ambulance Helicopter Pad:

Air Ambulance helicopters often arrive in the Comox Valley at a weight that does not allow them to meet the Category A landing specifications required to land directly at the Comox Valley Hospital located at 101 Lerwick Road in Courtenay. Weather conditions are often a factor in the decision made by helicopter crews to land in Courtenay, making the Airpark the most commonly-used alternate landing location to support patient

transfers. Air ambulance helicopters are always accommodated at the Airpark, but at times it can cause congestion near the refueling and run-up areas of the Airpark due to obstacles and other airfield activities. The proposed project would create a dedicated location at the Airpark where patients transfers can occur in a safer and obstacle-free environment. As for the floatplane dock replacement, financial support for the air ambulance pad has been requested from the BC Government under the BC Air Access Program for 2023, at a total estimated cost of \$66,339.00.

A Letter of Support from the City of Courtenay for the two BCAAP Project submissions is therefore requested, to provide local support for the improvements to the Airpark infrastructure. To note that the Airpark Board of Directors is unanimous in its support for the projects, and that contingency funds have been set aside to cover the Airpark share of the projects (approximately 15% of total project costs).

For your consideration and referral to City Council for approval.

All the best,



Ray Henault
President
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