
From: legislativealias@courtenay.ca
Subject: Comox Valley Airport BCAAP Grant- Request of Letter of Support
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From: Mike Atkins <mike.atkins@comoxairport.com>
Date: December 16, 2022 at 12:04:35 PM PST
To: jwall@comox.ca, "Garbutt, Geoff" <ggarbutt@courtenay.ca>, Russell Dyson <rdyson@comoxvalleyrd.ca>, info@cumberland.ca
Cc: Francis Laplante <Francis@comoxairport.com>
Subject: Comox Valley Airport BCAAP Grant- Request of Letter of Support

Good morning CAOs,

The Comox Valley Airport is applying for three BC Air Access Program ([BCAAP](#)) Grants as denoted below. We recently became aware that one of the evaluation components is 'Community Support' and 'Projects are scored on a continuum from "community opposition" to "strong community support." May I request a letter of support from you in backing our grant application? I highlight that there is no burden, financial or otherwise, accompanying this request. While the deadline for the application is 22 December, we have been advised that we can add letters of support to our application at a later date.

Project 1: Solar Power Array Installation and Integration: The focus of the project is to provide an alternative source of electricity for the Comox Airport Terminal. The project will provide a 100kW solar panel array installed on the roof of the existing terminal, integrated with the existing BC Hydro utility. The project will include the design, acquisition and installation of the solar array, the connection circuits, mounting brackets and cabling to deliver solar energy to the Comox Valley Airport terminal and through to the BC Hydro utility. Selection of the winning provider will prioritize local resources and contractors. Total estimate of Project: \$400,000. Applicant Share: \$80,000.

Project 2: Electrification of Ground Support Equipment and Utility vehicles: The focus of the project will upgrade and replace Ground Support Equipment and utility vehicle internal combustion engine equipment with Battery-Electric systems. The project will include the evaluation, selection, procurement and service support for a belt loader, utility vehicle, road-worthy EV and small equipment. Selection of the winning provider will prioritize local Vendors. Total estimate of Project: \$200,000. Applicant Share: \$40,000.

Project 3: Electric Vehicle Level 3 Fast Charging Stations: The focus of the project is to provide Electric Vehicle Level 3 Fast Charging Stations for the Comox Airport Terminal. The project will provide a minimum of two distinct sets of Fast Charging Stations installed in the main parking by the terminal. The Charging Stations will be integrated with the existing BC Hydro utility and will take advantage of the solar panel array scheduled to be installed in the 2023-2024 timeframe. The project will include the design, acquisition and installation of the Charging Stations, the connection circuits, mounting brackets and cabling to deliver Charging Station services to the Comox airport. Selection of the winning provider will prioritize local resources and contractors. Total estimate of Project: \$400,000. Applicant Share: \$80,000.

The above-noted projects will allow CVAC to continue our journey in addressing our GHG Emissions and meet the requirements in our soon-to-be-released YQQ GHG Reduction Strategy and Path to Carbon Zero.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a previous letter of support provided by the Town of Comox to a submission from a previous year. As a starting point, I would suggest wording similar to the follows:

The Comox Valley Airport continues to provide a vital air transportation link to the Comox Valley and, in fact, the entire North Island area. The airport continues to be a huge economic driver for our community, especially in light of the COVID pandemic which has seen many relocate to our area and now rely on air passenger service as an important part of their business lives. In addition, air travel is returning as many families finally have the opportunity to reconnect after the travel restrictions imposed during the pandemic. The Comox Valley airport expects to see 80% of pre-pandemic travel this year as passengers slowly return.

As a community, we applaud the airport's focus on climate and its efforts to reduce its contribution to the aviation industry's carbon emissions. They have conducted an inventory of their GHG Emissions in the amount of 230 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂e) equivalent per year for Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions (Baseline 2019-2020 – pre-pandemic) and are in the process of drafting a GHG reduction strategy with specific goals to reach Carbon Neutrality next fiscal year and Net Zero by 2035. Capital will be required to achieve these goals and we remain exceptionally supportive of the BC Government's assistance in support of GHG reductions leading to a cleaner future for all British Columbians.

The airport has submitted three environmental projects to the BC Air Access Program in areas that will allow them to provide improved service to the community with a lower carbon footprint. From using solar to offset the energy required from BC Hydro to the electrification of Ground and Utility Support Equipment to Electric Car Charges, the projects will allow enhanced service to the community while reducing carbon in the atmosphere.

We remain strong proponents of the airport's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint while providing exceptional service to the residents of the Comox Valley, and central and northern Vancouver Island. We ask that you note our strong community support of their application.

If you have any questions about our application or our GHG Reduction Strategy, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Francis Laplante (Francis@comoxairport.com)

Regards,

Mike

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