



NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Transportation

\$2 MILLION FOR COMOX AIRPORT TO CREATE JOBS, TOURISM

COMOX – The province is investing \$2 million to support an expansion of the Comox Valley Airport that will create new jobs, tourism growth and new economic opportunities for the entire Island, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

The Comox Valley Airport Commission (CVAC) will receive \$2 million towards a new civilian air terminal building being constructed at CFB Comox. The funding will be used to develop capacity for an international customs area, enabling the airport commission to seek out new carriers to provide international flights between Vancouver Island and the U.S.

“Comox Valley airport is a gateway to the Island, with two-thirds of passengers destined for areas outside the valley,” Campbell said. “This expansion will help generate more growth, more tourism and more jobs for the Comox Valley and entire Island.”

The provincial contribution is part of a total \$12.3 million expansion. Other funding includes \$3.9 million from the airport commission, \$4 million from the Comox-Strathcona Regional District, \$1.9 million from Transport Canada and \$500,000 from the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority for improvements to meet new security requirements.

A report commissioned by the CVAC projects that the airport expansion and resulting growth in tourism could generate up to 800 additional direct jobs in the region and \$22 million in new economic growth.

"A new passenger terminal to service civilian traffic boosts our ability to attract American and other international tourists for ski holidays and golfing vacations, and to visit the many attractions around the Comox Valley," said Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen. "The natural beauty and attraction of this region already makes it a key destination, and this new terminal increases the incentive to visit."

“This new, expanded airport is great news for Mt. Washington and the entire tourism sector,” said Mt. Washington President and General Manager Peter Gibson. “It will open up the ski industry and ensure it is a driving force in this region for years to come.”

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This investment is part of the province's comprehensive transportation plan, which will provide \$1.3 billion over the next three years to expand transportation infrastructure. The province is committing a total of \$40 million specifically for ports and airports. These projects include expansions to Cranbrook and Prince George airports, and \$17 million to develop container facilities at the Port of Prince Rupert, as part of the BC Rail Investment Partnership.

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