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NEWS RELEASE

May 31, 2012

New Comox Valley Airport CEO Announced

The Comox Valley Airport Commission (CVAC) is pleased to announce that Fred Bigelow has been named the incoming Chief Executive Officer for the airport. Bigelow will replace Shirley de Silva who has served as CEO since January 2010.

"We are so pleased to welcome Fred to CVAC," said Board Chair, Linda Oprica. "He is a well known and respected member of the community and he has the skills needed to succeed in the position of CEO of the Comox Valley Airport. We are very optimistic about the future under Fred's direction and leadership."

As a former Base Commander for 19 Wing Comox, Bigelow has extensive experience in managing the operational aspects of an airport, including the airfield. As the Director General for Personnel and Family Support Services, he has demonstrated his ability to manage thousands of people and associated budgets, as well as administer programs including wellness, retail and financial services.

Bigelow starts work on July 9, 2012 and is expected to have a seamless transition into his new role. The current CEO, Shirley de Silva, has agreed to remain with the airport until July at the request of the Board.

"Shirley has left some big shoes for me to fill. Passenger numbers have rebounded under her leadership and she was instrumental in developing the new strategic direction for the airport," said Fred Bigelow. "I am honoured to accept this position and I look forward to working with the CVAC team and broader community. The Comox Valley is a place that is close to my heart and I am committed to playing a positive role in building upon the Comox Valley Airport's well established reputation of excellence."

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Since January 2010, the Comox Valley Airport (YQQ) has completed a new strategic plan, developed an incentive program for new air service, grown its first quarter passenger loads by 13 per cent, implemented a global award winning brand, launched a public relations program and strategic marketing strategy, enhanced its corporate culture and become a viable candidate in the competitive world of air service development.

The Comox Valley Airport Commission is the governing authority for the operation of YQQ. The nine-member Commission is broadly representative of the Comox Valley community and its members are nominated by the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox, the Village of Cumberland, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Comox Valley Economic Development Society (CVEDS).

CVAC is a federally incorporated, non-profit entity. It was established through letters patent in 1996.

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