
NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Airport Passenger Numbers Remain Strong in 2008

Abbotsford, Wednesday January 21, 2009 – Abbotsford International Airport (YXX) continued to draw high numbers of passengers last year, announced Dave Kandal, Chair of the Abbotsford Airport Authority today.

The total passenger count for 2008 is 503,693 and passenger traffic in 2009 is expected to increase substantially as the airport improves service and facilities to accommodate travelers.

“I have no doubt that our passenger numbers will continue to grow,” said Kandal. “The Fraser Valley is still one of the fastest growing regions in the country, despite the economic downturn, and our airport is a regional transportation hub for this section of the province.”

Abbotsford International has put a lot of effort into increasing the convenience for the traveling public. Recent renovations have increased the space and improved traffic flow in the domestic and international terminals. An airside lounge, Ravens Bar and Grill, opened last spring and a new restaurant and lounge will be opening on the ground side in 2009. Recent parking lot improvements and an automated pay on exit system have increased the ease and convenience for drivers and further improvements for this year include new public restroom facilities as well a renovated check-in area.

“We also anticipate that this year will bring some additional destination options for travelers,” said Kandal. “We’re hoping to increase our provincial flights, commit to a regular Toronto flight, as well as adding to our international destinations including the addition of a US hub.”

With the recent approval of the Airport’s Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw, Kandal is certain the airport will see some innovative new development in 2009.

“The new hangar facility being developed by Chinook Helicopters will be the first project developed under the new legislation and we anticipate this program will encourage more aerospace business development,” adds Kandal. “We’re gearing up for a banner year at YXX.”

Abbotsford International Airport is the Fraser Valley's regional airport and serves over 500,000 passengers annually from Surrey to Hope. Conveniently located off the trans-Canada highway, Abbotsford International offers daily service to Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver Island as well as a seasonal weekly charter service to Mexico. With close, affordable parking, on-site wi-fi service, and self-serve check in kiosks, Abbotsford is the preferred choice for travelers wanting a friendly, easy and stress-free travel experience.

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