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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Airport's Passenger Numbers Continue to Climb**

**Abbotsford, February 26, 2007** – The passengers just keep filing through the doors to fly from the Abbotsford Airport. Passenger growth reached a record half million by the end of 2006.

“Our overall passenger growth is up almost 30 percent, and it just keeps growing,” says Dave Kandal, Chairman of the Abbotsford Airport Authority. “It shows no signs of slowing down. Both Air Canada and WestJet released information that their load factors are up and more flights will be leaving from our runway in the very near future.”

Abbotsford International celebrated a record 502,634 passengers in 2006, up 28 percent in one year. Transport Canada ranked YXX as Canada's sixth busiest airport in aircraft movements in 2006. Westjet recently announced two new flights to Edmonton to begin in March.

“When WestJet first began flying to and from Abbotsford in June, 1997, we made Canadian aviation history by being the first carrier to provide jet service to this airport with our 11 flights a week,” says Bob Cummings, Executive Vice President, Guest Experience and Marketing at WestJet. “We are thrilled to see this number grow to over 40 and Abbotsford's traffic increase to over 500,000 passengers in 2006. We are delighted to be a part of this success, and we look forward to providing increased service to the Abbotsford area for many years to come.”

The Airport is a regional Fraser Valley transportation hub for travellers east of the Port Mann Bridge. Staff will be showcasing the airport's amenities to the regional marketplace by hosting a Business to Business Event with the local Chambers of Commerce on March 14. This event will give local business people a chance to see the airport as a quick and easy hub to the rest of the world. A fact Air Canada knows well, given the recent success of the company's business flight pass program. Abbotsford is one of the locations where the pass program has been the greatest success.

“Air Canada is proud to be a part of Abbotsford International Airport's record growth. Twenty Air Canada flights a week connect the Fraser Valley to our worldwide network of destinations across Canada, the USA, the Caribbean and Europe,” says Charles McKee, Vice President, Marketing for Air Canada. “Air Canada's popular Flight Passes such as the Western Commuter Pass have made purchasing and managing travel simple for frequent flyers, commuters and small business enterprises travelling to and from Abbotsford. We look forward to continuing to offer innovative and cost effective travel options to grow air travel in all markets we serve.”

“When you look at the location of Abbotsford, compare our driving distance, low traffic congestion and inexpensive parking, it makes perfect sense that more passengers are flying from here. You can truly get anywhere from here and if it’s easier, why would you travel from a bigger, busier airport?” adds Kandal.

In preparation for the influx of passengers, the airport has already begun infrastructure improvements and compiled a list of priorities for the coming year. A \$4.3 million runway extension was recently completed, the international terminal was renovated, a new loading bridge opened in the fall and a full-service gift shop opened in December.

“The airport is situated to be a major economic driver for the valley. We will no doubt see some exciting developments landing in Abbotsford this year,” adds Kandal.

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