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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Airport's Passenger Numbers flying high...**

**Abbotsford, April 20, 2007** – Abbotsford International Airport continues to attract record numbers of passengers. Just released first quarter results show another 10% increase.

Abbotsford International Airport celebrated a record 502,634 passengers in 2006, up 28 percent from the previous year. And the momentum just continues to build. In the first quarter, passenger numbers are up more than 11,000 over the same time last year.

The Airport is a transportation hub for travelers from Hope to Surrey, Mission to Coquitlam and beyond. Some 300 members of Chambers of Commerce across a dozen municipalities recently convened at YXX for a business networking event and to discuss how to work collaboratively to grow and promote the airport.

"It is evident that more people are becoming aware of the convenience and ease of flying out of YXX (Abbotsford)" says Dave Kandal, Chairman of the Abbotsford Airport Authority "if travelers can use an airport closer to their office or home they clearly prefer to do so. 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.

"We are thrilled to see Abbotsford's numbers continue to grow in 2007 and are pleased to be a part of this success," says Bob Cummings, Executive Vice-President, Guest Experience and Marketing at WestJet. "WestJet is committed to ensuring guests have affordable and flexible travel opportunities to reach their chosen destination. This summer, we will have a total of 49 flights per week out of the Abbotsford airport. With two daily non-stop flights to Edmonton and five to Calgary, we are pleased to provide the lower mainland area with access to our entire network, including Toronto."

Airport staff is working hard to ensure that the airport continues to provide great service and additional amenities for the growing numbers of passengers. Recent additions include installation of a glass-canopy walkway to the new loading bridge, an extension to the covered walkways in the parking lot and food and beverage service in the departure lounge.

The federal government recently announced \$2 million dollars to fund two new fire trucks for the airport.

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