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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Abbotsford Airport Continues to Report Growing Passenger Numbers**

**Abbotsford, November 20, 2007** – Abbotsford International Airport continues to serve the needs of a steadily growing passenger base and establish itself as a regional transportation hub. At the end of October this year 431,322 guests had used the airport – up 3% over the same period last year that saw 419,720 guests use the airport.

WestJet Airlines, who celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at YXX this summer, is largely responsible for the increase.

“We’re happy that Lower Mainland travelers continue to enjoy the exceptional guest service we provide,” says Richard Bartrem, VP Culture and Communications at WestJet. “Our service to Abbotsford has been steadily growing, and we look forward to increasing our routes and frequency in the future.”

Dave Kandal, Chair of the Abbotsford Airport Authority notes that “WestJet is a great partner and we are very appreciative of what their service has done for our region.”

The Abbotsford International Airport, located in one of the fastest growing census metropolitan areas in the country, continues to define itself as a key hub in BC’s growing transportation network.

BCWest Air, the Nanaimo-based commuter airline is the latest to come on board. Offering daily service between Nanaimo, Abbotsford, Boundary Bay and Victoria since mid October, BCWest Air President Shanon Maurer has been “very pleased” with the response from Abbotsford Airport.

“We looked at Abbotsford as a destination for over a year and watched the expansion in the airport facility, now we can say that we are happy to be part of the future growth,” says Maurer.

“As Lower Mainlanders continue to discover the ease and convenience of YXX we’ve got some exciting plans in the works that will further improve their experience here,” Kandal says. “Those plans include renovations to the International Arrivals area that will be finished in time for the Transat Holiday flights returning from Puerto Vallarta in December.”

Other enhancements are in the food and beverage area that will take place when White Spot opens a third restaurant in Abbotsford at the airport. Renovations to convert the existing café into a Whitespot Restaurant are expected to begin in December.

*Abbotsford International Airport is the Lower Mainland's regional airport serving 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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