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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Helicopter Facility to be Developed at Airport**

**Abbotsford, November 3, 2008** – Abbotsford International Airport will see a new and improved helicopter facility as Chinook Helicopter's build a brand new 15,000 square foot facility.

"We're really excited to see this development going forward," says Dave Kandal, Chair of the Abbotsford Airport Authority. "This development is the result of almost a year of discussions and we're very pleased to be able to support the expansion of a long-time tenant like Chinook."

Chinook Helicopters began training operations in 1982 at the Abbotsford Airport and is one of Canada's busiest and best known helicopter training schools.

"With 15 employees and 8 training helicopters, we've outgrown the hangar and office facilities we've occupied for the last 26 years" says Cathy Press, President of Chinook Helicopters. "We're pleased to be able to stay in Abbotsford and develop this new facility to accommodate our growing operation."

Press says the company plans to increase their turbine fleet and will continue to provide basic and advanced flight training and flight testing from the new hangar.

"Abbotsford is the best location in Canada for professional helicopter training," adds Press. "The close proximity of the Coast and North Cascade mountain ranges makes it an ideal training ground."

Chinook's new facility will include a hanger and office complex on the northwest corner of the airport.

"The construction of this facility conforms to the Airport's Master Plan," adds Kandal. "This area was identified as a helicopter corridor, and it will open up more land for industrial aerospace development."

Construction of the new Chinook facility will begin in 2009, with an expected completion date of summer 2009.

*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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