
NEWS RELEASE

New Chinook Helicopter Training Facility Opens

Abbotsford, December 3, 2009 – Abbotsford International Airport is proud to officially welcome Chinook Helicopter’s brand new facility to its grounds, announced Dave Kandal, Chair of the Abbotsford Airport Authority today.

Chinook Helicopters began training operations in 1982 at the Abbotsford Airport and is one of Canada's busiest and best known helicopter training schools. After 27 years of operations, the facility had outgrown their hangar and office space.

“We’re really excited to welcome Chinook to their new facility,” 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 operates 9 training helicopters and employs 17 people,” says Cathy Press, President of Chinook Helicopters. “We were thrilled to be able to develop this new facility to accommodate our growing operation in Abbotsford.”

The new building was completed in October of this year and contains 11,000 square feet of hangar space and 4,400 square feet of office space. Last year Chinook turned out 170 qualified helicopter pilots.

“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.”

“The completion 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.”

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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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