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# NEWS RELEASE

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## ABBOTSFORD AIRPORT EXPANSION COMPLETE

**Abbotsford, BC (September 16, 2011):** Officials gathered today to mark the completion of major upgrades to the Abbotsford International Airport (YXX) as a result of a collaboration between the Canadian and British Columbia governments and Abbotsford International Airport. The improvements to Abbotsford International Airport will now pave the way for the next phase in the airport's plan to become a major economic generator for the Fraser Valley, British Columbia and western Canada.

Terminal improvements include an improved departure lounge, security area, guest check-in counters, new washrooms, a new tourist information centre, and new flooring and finishes. Infrastructure improvements include a new 9,600-ft. taxiway that parallels the primary runway, an expansion of the west apron and various electrical, lighting and surface rehabilitation projects. Together, these upgrades will double the airport's passenger capacity and allow YXX to start attracting major aerospace companies and additional commercial air service.

This project, which finished on time and on budget, was based on a joint investment of \$30 million. The governments of Canada and British Columbia each committed \$10 million to the project while Abbotsford International Airport provided an additional \$10 million.

"These important upgrades to the Abbotsford International Airport will increase transportation safety, improve airport efficiency, and create local jobs," said the Honourable Ed Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway. "This project demonstrates the success of the Economic Action Plan in enhancing our infrastructure, creating jobs, and supporting long-term economic growth."

"I'm very pleased with the improvements to the Abbotsford Airport," said the Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Health and MLA for Abbotsford West. "By doubling capacity we've increased safety on runways, created the ability to attract more scheduled and charter airlines to Abbotsford, and ensured we're able to handle any traffic redirected here from Vancouver. The expansion also means the opportunity to attract even more jobs for local residents."

"Abbotsford is growing and definitely welcomes new development. We want our airport to continue to be one of the primary economic drivers for the city," said Abbotsford Mayor George W. Peary. "With the opportunities created by the Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRB), our proximity to the border, and the fact there is presently no major aerospace centre in BC, we will be working hard to bring that investment here, along with the economic benefits that will follow."

As part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund is providing funding to more than 4,100 infrastructure projects across the country that are either complete or nearing completion. Since March 2009, more than 440 projects have received a total federal investment of over \$505 million under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund across British Columbia.

Since October 2008, over \$5.6 billion has been committed by the province to over 900 infrastructure projects in British Columbia, which are estimated to create more than 36,000 jobs over the life of the projects.

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*Abbotsford International Airport is the Fraser Valley's regional airport and serves roughly 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 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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