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RED DEER AIRPORT SHOWCASED AS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DRIVER AT CENTRAL ALBERTA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (CAEP) STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Red Deer Airport – February 9, 2016 - CAEP Board of Directors (BOD) held a long term strategic planning session at the Red Deer Airport on February 3, 2016 to renew their vision and mission as well as to determine a direction for the organization to ensure relevance to membership and viability well into the future. Information gleaned from a number of planning exchanges held with members in January 2016 was used for a basis of consideration in the BOD's planning session.

"CAEP is a conduit for communities of all sizes to compete more effectively in the global market place resulting in greater prosperity locally, regionally, and provincially. With more and more economic planning happening at the regional level, CAEP's role to empower its communities to advance sustainable regional economic development through local and regional initiatives remains vital as Central Alberta becomes recognized as an innovative and prosperous region" says Kimberley Worthington, Executive Director of CAEP.

Immediately following the planning session, the BOD toured Air Spray, one of the 17 commercial tenants located at the airport. Led by Paul Lane, Vice President and COO of Air Spray, the group toured the operations and maintenance facility, witnessing first-hand the economic benefits that aviation-related business and industry provides to the region.

"The tour of Air Spray was a great way to showcase one of the many commercial tenants at the Airport and the important role that they play in the local economy and beyond. Many of our commercial tenants have invested in the airport for the long-term and help solidify our role as an economic generator for the Central Alberta Region" says RJ Steenstra, CEO of the Red Deer Airport.

The tour also included a showcase of the Airport's operations equipment and maintenance facilities. CAEP Board of Directors were very impressed with the plans the Red Deer Airport has for the future and is very appreciative of RJ and his team for exhibiting this key regional economic driver to them.

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About CAEP

The Central Alberta Economic Partnership was the first Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) in Alberta in 1998. Today, there are 11 REDAs in the province. CAEP improves capacity for communities, including business, by providing tools, resources, and training to achieve greater prosperity locally, regionally, and provincially. CAEP, accountable to the Government of Alberta and its members, is a non-profit organization comprised of 38 municipal members, 14 associate members, and 1 First Nation.

About Red Deer Airport

The Red Deer Airport (YQF) is a vital transportation link for Central Alberta, offering scheduled passenger service and charter services. YQF is operated by The Red Deer Regional Airport Authority, a not-for-profit, non-share Capital Corporation incorporated under the Alberta Regional Airports Authorities Act. Since 1992, it has been responsible for the management, maintenance and development of Red Deer Airport.