

*For Immediate Release*

## **Another Record Year for Red Deer Airport**

*January 7, 2015 (Red Deer, AB)* – Red Deer Airport saw record number of passengers (scheduled and charter) for 2014 with 29,131 passengers surpassing the previous high of 17,402 set in 2013. For the year, total passengers increased 66% over 2013 with scheduled passengers increasing 115% over 2013 making Red Deer one of the fastest growing airports in the country on a percentage basis.

"Scheduled passenger traffic continues to grow and that is extremely positive for us and our airline partners," says RJ Steenstra CEO Red Deer Airport Authority. "If you look at the last four years, the compound annual growth rate for the airport is 179% and that is significant given where the airport has been in the not so distant past," Steenstra adds. "We still experience approximately 92% leakage to our neighbours however with continuing work to attract direct airline services, the airport should be able to recapture a bigger percentage of the market which translates into more convenient travel options and more economic impact for the region."

Air Canada Express provides service 3 times per day 7 days per week to Calgary with easy connections to 185 worldwide destinations. Northwestern Air provides direct flights to Kelowna, Fort McMurray and most recently added Grande Prairie to their service from Red Deer. Central Albertans are realizing that there are significant benefits to being connected to other cities in Alberta, Canada and the world and *YQF is the smarter departure choice*. "It's a shift in how we view travel from Red Deer," Steenstra says.

The City of Red Deer and Central Alberta are growing and so is their importance and role within the province and country. The airport is an important piece of infrastructure to meet the needs of this growth and make Central Alberta a competitive and world class region. To meet present and future needs the airport is embarking on a long term capital investment program that will be begin in 2015 with a runway extension and land servicing to accommodate a thriving commercial aviation community and capture opportunities for other business to locate and operate from Red Deer Airport.

### **Red Deer Airport**

Serving Central Albertans, Red Deer Airport offers scheduled passenger service to Fort McMurray, Calgary, Kelowna and Grande Prairie through airline partners Northwestern Air and Air Canada Express. YQF continues to be one of the busiest regional airports in Canada and a vital and vibrant transportation link for Central Alberta. The Red Deer Airport Authority is 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.

- 30 -

### **Further Information**

RJ Steenstra *MBA, AAE, IAP*  
Chief Executive Officer | RDRAA  
403•886•4388  
[rj.steenstra@flyreddeer.com](mailto:rj.steenstra@flyreddeer.com)