

For immediate release

Red Deer Airport Traffic up 25% - A Major Economic Player in Province

February 6, 2013 - Red Deer continues to increase its economic influence in Alberta confirmed today in a comment paper issued by a senior economist with Alberta Treasury Branch examining traffic numbers at regional airports in the province. Red Deer Airport is the busiest regional airport in the province at 50,738 operations – a 25% increase in traffic numbers since 1997. The bulk of this increase has come in the last two years. Month over month Red Deer Airport is also one of the busiest regional airports in Canada among airports with Flight Service Stations operated by Nav Canada. The comment paper can be viewed at <http://www.atb.com/learn/daily-economic-comment/Pages/default.aspx>.

CEO RJ Steenstra said, *"The numbers are indicative of the airport's continuing influence on the economics of the area. The importance of Red Deer as an economic hub in the province is certainly known to us and is now starting to come to light regionally and nationally. The airport continues to play a very important part of the economic equation and we are pleased that along with growing scheduled commercial services the future of the airport and most importantly the City and Region looks very bright."*

The comment paper outlines that much of the growth is due in part to population increase and economic activity in Red Deer over the years but does show that Red Deer is now one of the most important industrial service hubs in the province.

With increased demand for aviation across the country, Red Deer Airport is poised to continue its journey as a major transportation asset and contributor to Central Alberta and the Province. The goal is for Red Deer Airport to be the aviation gateway to Central Alberta.

Serving Central Albertans, Red Deer Airport now offers scheduled service through Northwestern Airlines to Kelowna, Abbotsford and Fort McMurray. With 51,000 aircraft movements, 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.

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