



red deer airport

## Red Deer Airport Master Plan – A Catalyst for Growth

November, 2014 (Red Deer) – Red Deer Airport welcomed the Board of Directors' approval of its completed Airport Master Plan. The Red Deer Regional Airport embarked upon developing a comprehensive Master Plan for the airport, which acts as the overall vision for the airport and the systematic, controlled development of the airport's infrastructure to meet the current and future of Central Alberta and the City of Red Deer.

An executive summary and final report has been released, said Jason Scheyen, Chair of the Authority Board of Directors. "Without some key investments the Board of the Red Deer Regional Airport Authority has concerns about the long term viability of the airport itself. For this reason we are introducing the Master Plan and we want to use the master plan as a marketing piece so the community can learn more about the airport and the priorities and the associated benefits the priorities will bring," he said. "The initiatives outlined in the master plan meet the needs of our customers, partners and stakeholders by delivering a superior passenger experience, improving the efficiency of the airport, taking advantage of our strategic location, attracting and generating jobs, diversifying our economy, enhancing safety and maximizing capacity and the low cost operating potential of the Red Deer Airport. The investment is not without its risks but through leadership and vision from all levels of government the Board of the Red Deer Regional Airport Authority believes all goals set out can be accomplished."

This master plan is the culmination of an in-depth analysis and stakeholder consultation process resulting in a series of recommendations to help guide the continued growth of this important regional economic asset. The plan provides recommendations within a short-, mid- and long term (20-year) horizon, while complementing and supporting local regional initiatives and development like the Canada Winter Games taking place in 2019.

"The City of Red Deer and Central Alberta region is growing and so is our importance within the province and country. The airport is one of the most important pieces of infrastructure to meet the needs of this growth and make Red Deer a competitive and world class city. It is a vital economic engine that is yet to hit full stride but we have the potential." Red Deer Airport Chief Executive Officer, RJ Steenstra, said. Communities all over the country are making smart investments because they see their airports as a tool that helps build trade, tourism and commerce which leads to jobs which then leads to a good quality of life for everyone," Steenstra adds.

The plan outlines the Red Deer Airport's capital requirements and the triggers for those investments. The 20 year, \$106 million plan includes repairing and extending the primary runway and making improvements to the terminal building. The first priorities identified in the plan include an extension of the primary runway to 7500ft and the SE field land development, among other projects, like terminal and parking lot expansions. It's expected that part of the money for the projects will come from the airport's revenue stream, however, it's hoped in the short term that government funding from all levels will help get things started.



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“There has never been a better time in the airport’s history to invest as we continue to garner interest by several new airlines and aviation businesses,” Steenstra noted. We have asked for \$10.4 million in local support which I then hope to leverage into various provincial and federal programs for infrastructure. He believes the plan, which sets a course for the next two decades, is achievable and lays out reasonable goals and expectations. “We’ve been working to set the right course for the airport but it takes time as we are so far behind in the investments required,” Steenstra adds. “It is however time to take the next steps and unlock the full potential of the airport and region.”

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### **Red Deer Airport**

Serving Central Albertans, Red Deer Airport offers scheduled passenger service to Kelowna, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie and Calgary 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.

#### **For Further Information:**

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