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### **City of Campbell River Airport Opens the New 6,500 Feet Runway to Air Traffic**

A major project milestone was recently achieved on the Campbell River Airport Upgrade project as the new runway extension was officially opened to full air traffic. The runway was successfully extended by 1,500 feet to achieve a new operational length of 6,500 feet. The Campbell River Airport is now accessible to aircraft that operate within a 6,500-foot airport environment.

*“This marks a new era for air travel and business for the City and the region. We can now welcome a wider range of aircraft to Campbell River,”* said Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *“And we were right on schedule. I commend our contractors and NAV Canada for being on schedule, on budget, and minimizing inconveniences to air traffic.”*

The process for opening the full length runway took place in several steps. In September, the new length of runway was paved, with crews completing two lifts or layers of asphalt before the rainy season began. This was followed by testing the pavement, then line painting it and adding grooves to allow for easier water runoff and better braking for aircraft. In October, crews shifted their focus to adapting the runway edge lighting and associated electrical systems to accommodate the new runway length. All the runway lighting – including approach lights, threshold lights, and runway lights – were extended by 1,500 feet.

NAV Canada was also working on site. The new runway length required that the existing instrument and glide path electronics be relocated 1,500 feet. NAV Canada took this opportunity to also replace the existing runway’s Instrument Landing System (ILS) localizer, glide path electronics and antenna systems as part of a national upgrade program. Flight checks by NAV Canada were completed in November and all the runway elements, new lighting and electrical passed NAV Canada requirements.

*“This is an important accomplishment for the City and the Airport,”* said Vancouver Island North MP John Duncan. *“This extension will provide new opportunities for residents and local businesses and support economic development and growth in the community.”*

Island Coastal Economic Trust Chair, Barry Janyk stated: *“A primary goal of the Trust is to be a catalyst for regional economic development. We expect that YBL’s runway extension and the economic opportunities that will arrive ‘on schedule’ because of this new aerservices centre will solidify an aspect of this region’s future economic diversification. This project will provide for the community – and the region – well after construction.”*

*“This will help to open doors for new economic opportunities on the North Island,”* said Comox Valley MLA Don McRae. *“As well, the jobs created by this and other provincially-funded projects help to expand the economies of the region.”*

The runway extension portion of the upgrade project is now complete. *“We’re now focusing on the terminal building upgrade. We hope to award the construction tender shortly, and construction is scheduled to begin in early December,”* said Ron Neufeld, general manager of operations at the City of Campbell River.

Funds for this \$8.3M Campbell River Airport Upgrade project were provided by the Federal and Provincial governments through the Build Canada Fund, the Island Coast Economic Trust, and through City of Campbell River’s airport reserves. For more information, visit the Campbell River Airport website: [www.crairport.ca](http://www.crairport.ca).

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