

May 10, 2011

City of Campbell River Launches Free Wi-Fi “HotSpot” Service at the Campbell River Airport

The City of Campbell River is pleased to announce that new, free wireless Wi-Fi service is now live at the Campbell River Airport.

This service makes it possible for passengers, visitors and staff to access the Internet free-of-charge on their laptops, smartphones, or personal digital assistants (PDAs) while in the terminal building. This service, also known as a “hotspot,” involves offering free Internet access over a wireless local area network.

“This was an important request from passengers and airport staff, so we’re pleased to be able to offer this as a free service,” said Campbell River Mayor, Charlie Cornfield.

Susan Sinnott, chair of the Campbell River Airport Authority said: *“It helps to raise our airport to the standard of other regional airports, and is one aspect of our current airport terminal building upgrade.”*

The Wi-Fi hotspot went live last month and is being provided with assistance from local communications provider North Island Communications (NIC). The City of Campbell River will provide the monthly ISP (Internet Service Provider) cost and NIC provides equipment, installation and support. The City retains full administration rights to the service.

Dave Emery, owner and president of North Island Communications Inc. said they are happy to be involved. *“We are pleased to help bring wireless access to the YBL terminal. Visitors will now enjoy Internet access as they wait to board and deplane. Business visitors can now make efficient use of their time in the terminal. I think bringing this service into the CYBL terminal is one component of the airport upgrade project to make it more business friendly.”*

To log in to the service, users can simply search for “Available Wireless Networks” on their laptop, PDA or smartphone. Select “YBL Open” on the users list of available wireless networks. There is no password required. The City has installed content management to restrict access to inappropriate sites.

Performance and speed of the connection will vary depending on the amount or load of data that is being transmitted. This is a standard public Wi-Fi hotspot, and users should be aware that data being sent is not encrypted and could be viewed by others.

The Campbell River Airport Upgrade project includes the extension of the runway to 6,500 feet (completed November 2010), upgrades to the field electrical system, replacement of NAV Canada’s Instrument Landing System (ILS) localizer, glide path electronics and antenna systems, plus the modernization of the airport terminal building. Additional elements of the terminal building upgrade include new entrance doors and an outdoor awning system, an expanded passenger waiting room with washrooms, a revitalized and renovated café area, flight information boards throughout the building, improved heating and cooling options with a new HVAC system, coordinated display areas and signage throughout the building, and design elements that highlight and feature Campbell River art.

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.

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