

June 17, 2011

Campbell River Celebrates Completion of \$8.3M Airport Upgrade and Runway Extension Project and Unveils Original “Thunderbird” Artwork to Mark the Occasion

Federal, provincial and community partners were on site today to tour the modernized Campbell River Airport Terminal Building and mark the completion of the Campbell River Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade project. As part of the celebration, the airport’s first original work of art was unveiled today—a suspended aluminum “Thunderbird” airplane, created by local artists Ken Blackburn and Bill Henderson, and painted in traditional Kwakwaka’wakw colours.

The Airport Runway Extension and Upgrade project was an \$8.3 million City of Campbell River capital works project that broke ground in July of 2010 and included the completion of three significant elements: extending the airport runway by 1,500 feet to achieve a length of 6,500 feet, modernizing the airport terminal building, and upgrading the field electrical centre and related technologies.

The project was completed under budget. Funds of \$7.8 million were spent to complete the project, leaving a budget surplus of approximately \$500,000.

Special guests joining Acting Mayor Mary Storry and City Council for the ground breaking included John Duncan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North and Mayor Phil Kent, City of Duncan, in his role as Vice-Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust. Also in attendance were members of the recently-created Campbell River Airport Authority, airport terminal tenants, airport neighbours, and members of local aviation-related businesses.

“Our Government is proud to help create jobs and economic activity here on northern Vancouver Island,” said the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. *“I look forward to seeing our local businesses, residents and visitors take full advantage of the expanded airport facility.”*

“These upgrades allow a broader range of aircraft to use the airport, improve the passenger experience, and also support the expansion of aviation-related business, industry and training opportunities in Campbell River,” said Acting Mayor Mary Storry. *“We have now taken this airport into the next phase of its growth, and in doing so have helped to expand the economic possibilities for the region.”*

Vice-chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust, Mayor Phil Kent of Duncan said: *“This project reflects on the Province’s visionary creation of ICET, to bring resources close to the community for economic development. Airports are known to be gateways for economic development. Campbell River’s airport is well positioned, with its adjoining industry ready lands, to spark additional air related industrial development and help in the Trust’s efforts to diversify and expand the regional economy.”*

Artists Ken Blackburn and Bill Henderson were present to unveil and speak about their artwork. Dancers from the Campbell River Indian Band presented a ceremonial dance, led by Bill Henderson, to mark the unveiling of “Thunderbird” and to celebrate the newly refurbished airport terminal building.

– more –



Funding for the \$8.3 million project was provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Building Canada Fund, with each level of government funding \$2.5 million. The Island Coastal Economic Trust contributed \$2.3M towards to project. Campbell River funded their portion of the project—just under \$500,000 from existing airport reserves.

The Canada-British Columbia Building Canada Fund – Communities Component is a federal-provincial program that addresses the unique infrastructure needs of both rural and urban communities with populations of less than 100,000. Program funding is contingent on the successful completion of a federal Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Through this unprecedented Building Canada infrastructure plan, the Federal Government is providing long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada supports a stronger, safer and better country. Since October 2008, over \$5.5 billion has been committed by the province to more than 900 infrastructure projects in British Columbia, which are estimated to create more than 35,000 jobs over the life of the projects.

The runway extension portion of the Campbell River project was completed in November 2010, and has been operational ever since. The upgrades to the field electrical centre were completed in May 2011 and included upgrades to site electrical services allowing for the increased demand of this project while providing for future expansion.

Upgrades to the airport terminal building were completed this month and include the following:

- A new look and modern feel throughout the building
- Expanded departures area
- New dedicated Departures and Arrivals entrance doors
- Covered walkway with new outdoor entrance canopy
- Updated check-in counters
- An expanded passenger hold room with washrooms
- A revitalized and renovated café area
- Digital flight information boards throughout the building
- Better heating and cooling control with improvements to the building HVAC system
- Wireless Internet WI-FI service throughout the terminal building
- Design elements that highlight and feature First Nations motifs and Campbell River art

It is estimated that this project created 45,793 person hours of employment or approximately 22 years of work. EBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists were the lead consultants on the project with support from Stantec Architecture and Engineering as sub consultants.

Photos from the event will be posted on the City of Campbell River website www.campbellriver.ca and on the YBL website: www.crairport.ca

– 30 –

For further information please contact:

Jaime Burke
Regional Communications Manager
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Telephone: (604) 666-1318

Marci Hotsenpiller
Communications, Airport Upgrade Project
City of Campbell River
Telephone: 250-203-7867