



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** Fraser Valley Regional District Board  
**From:** Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks

**Date:** 2025-02-27

**Subject:** BC Air Access Program – Funding Application

**Reviewed by:** Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO  
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board support an application under the British Columbia Air Access Program – Major Projects for \$150,000.

### BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Air Access Program (BCAAP) is a suite of funding programs supporting the infrastructure and environmental needs of airports, heliports, and aerodromes and typically ranges from 50% funding to 75% funding. This funding is intended to support the aviation sector, which is critical to helping the BC Government address responsibilities, including emergency response, wildfire suppression, access to remote and Indigenous communities, resource exploration, tourism, recreation, and economic development.

There are a variety of applications including environmental projects, major projects (over \$100,000), airport master plans, and minor projects (\$100,000 or less). In order to qualify, the proposed project must be completed within one fiscal year and must be able to start once the funding is announced.

As this funding opportunity was announced after the February Regional & Corporate Services Committee agenda deadline, staff are bringing this report directly to the Board to ensure that the application can be submitted in the short timelines with all required documentation.

### DISCUSSION

An application is being submitted under the major projects category for the Fraser Valley Regional Airpark in Hope (the Airpark) to replace the fuel system and add a generator to ensure that the system continues to work in adverse conditions. The current system is at the end of its life, the technology can no longer be supported, and parts are not available. Plans are underway to install a new system to ensure that fuel can be supplied to the Airpark users. This project was previously submitted in 2024,

and according to grant administrators, while it met the criteria, it was not funded due to over-subscription, and Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) was encouraged to apply again.

In addition to regular recreational users, over the past years, the Airpark has been critical and central to supporting BC Wildfire Service through several fire events. It also functioned as a critical emergency hub during the 2021 Atmospheric River event and supports industry such as the pipeline expansion project and emergency cleanup in the area. Regularly, Air Ambulances land to facilitate transportation of those who need it in the area. Fuel supply is critical for these users to function.

These improvements are a part of the 2025 financial plan, and this funding would go a long way to support this infrastructure and customer service need. The Airpark fits the grant criteria, and the project has the required documentation, including cost estimates.

## **COST**

The total grant application is for \$150,000 which is based on current market pricing reflecting the total project value. If successful, BCAAP would fund 75% (\$112,500) and under the terms of the funding, the FVRD would be responsible for 25% (\$37,500), which is included in the 2025-2029 financial plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

BCAAP has welcomed applications to its intake for aviation infrastructure funding. It is a requirement of the funding application to submit a Board Resolution of support. An application is ready to be submitted for the Fraser Valley Regional Airpark in Hope and staff is looking for a recommendation of support.