



STAFF REPORT

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

Date: 2025-12-04

Subject: BC Air Access Program – Funding Application 2026/2027

Reviewed by: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO
Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO
Jennifer Kinnerman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board support an application under the British Columbia Air access Program Infrastructure Stream for \$275,000.

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 will typically provide between 50% to 75% of designated project 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.

For the 2026/2027 application, there are two streams including both Infrastructure and Facility Master Plans. To qualify, the proposed project must be completed within one fiscal year and must be able to start once the funding is announced.

DISCUSSION

An application is being submitted under the Infrastructure stream for the Fraser Valley Regional Airpark in Hope (the Airpark) to replace the tractor and the roller which are both at the end of life. These pieces of equipment are critical to the Airpark operations and maintenance as they keep the airstrip mowed, leveled, and smoothed and are used for snow removal ensuring that the site is well maintained to facilitate safety of flight.

Projects have been submitted in previous years, and according to the grant administrator, while they met the criteria, they have not been funded due to over subscription, and 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.

These equipment replacement needs were documented as part of the 2025-2029 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 has the required documentation and plans in place including cost estimates.

COST

The total grant application is for \$275,000 which is based on current market pricing reflecting the total project value. If successful, BCAAP would fund 50% (\$137,500) and under the terms of the funding the FVRD would be responsible for 50% (\$137,500) which will be reflected in the draft 2026-2030 financial plan.

CONCLUSION

The British Columbia Air Access Program (BCAAP) has welcomed applications for its intake for aviation infrastructure funding. It is a requirement of the funding application to submit a Board Resolution of support. An application for equipment required at the Fraser Valley Regional Airpark in Hope is being submitted, and staff is looking for a recommendation for support for this application.