

Date: August 8, 2020

**RE: Alberta Infrastructure Act and 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan: Engagement Opportunity**

To:

**Honourable Prasad Panda**  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Office of the Minister  
Infrastructure  
127 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta

As a follow up to the survey the Alberta Airports Management Association (AAMA) completed on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we would appreciate the opportunity to submit additional feedback on the proposed Alberta Infrastructure Act.

Please find a document outlining background information about the AAMA in “Appendix 1”.

In review of the proposed Alberta Infrastructure Act background materials and the completed survey, the AAMA believes the concerns of regional and community based airports in Alberta align with many of the trends identified within the survey. The role of airports should be a key factor when implementing strategies and solutions to manage the identified trends.

Alberta’s regional and community based airports have long struggled to fund capital infrastructure projects that are required to keep airports safe and open for business. The Province of Alberta has historically acknowledged the value of Alberta’s small network of airports by annually funding the Strategic Infrastructure Program’s Community Airports Program (CAP). The Province of Alberta provides \$2 million in annual funding to assist in the capital rehabilitation and improvement of approximately 72 paved airports in Alberta. While that may sound like a significant funding amount, those who work in the airport industry understand the cost of a single runway pavement project can cost up to \$15 million. Given existing funding levels, the average lifespan of critical airport infrastructure, and the number of eligible airports, it is apparent that the CAP program is severely underfunded and cannot be deemed acceptable for the Citizens of Alberta.

Smaller airports in Alberta are often utilized by Alberta Health Services Medevac flights, as well as, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry fire suppression services. However, the Province of Alberta does not provide enough funding to maintain the airport infrastructure that these vital services utilize. This shortfall in capital funding support then becomes the burden of the municipalities surrounding these airports. These Airport Operators are therefore encumbered with difficult monetary decisions regarding

airport upkeep. Airport Operators may be forced to operate with under maintained and potentially unsafe infrastructure in an attempt to accommodate critical medevac, or firefighting flights.

The AAMA and its members are asking the Province of Alberta to consider prioritizing airport funding in the development of the Alberta Infrastructure Act. The Province of Alberta should also consider reviewing the program, and to that end, make necessary changes to expand eligibility, and to increase funding to an amount that will allow Alberta's community airports to operate safely without placing excessive financial strain on the communities surrounding them.

The AAMA is more than willing to continue dialogue with the Province of Alberta in an effort to provide more information, and to discuss challenges and explore solutions. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. You may contact the association at anytime by reaching out to one of the contact addresses below.

Yours truly,



Logan Boyd  
Vice-Chair, AAMA  
5405 99 ST NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6E 0A9  
p. 1-780-413-0077  
e. [admin@albertairports.ca](mailto:admin@albertairports.ca)  
w. <http://albertairports.ca/>



The Alberta Airports Management Association was incorporated in Alberta under the Alberta Societies Act on April 20, 2007 (Corporate Access Number 5013222590). The need for an airport-focused association was identified to assist municipal and regional airports in a specialized field with minimal resources available. With the network of public airports in Alberta, well-informed airport operators provide benefits to both the province and municipalities.

The By-laws of the Association allow for a maximum of 9 members to serve on the board with two-year terms. The Association utilizes a contract service provider to assist with the administrative functions of the organization.

The 2020 board is composed of the following members:

Directors      Logan Boyd, Airport Operations Supervisor, Medicine Hat Regional Airport  
                  Terry McDoanld, Airport Operator, Lloydminster Airport  
                  Pierre Gauthier, Airport Manager, Slave Lake Airport  
                  Wendy McArthur, Airport Management Coordinator, Wetaskiwin Airport  
                  Jim Ogilve, Airport Manager, Whitecourt Airport  
                  Barry Feledichuk, Airport Supervisor, Lac La Biche Airport  
                  Kenneth Launchbury, Airport Operator, Manning Airport  
                  Brady Beazer, Owner, Marshall Lines

## Appendix 1 – AAMA Alberta Infrastructure Act Submission

In addition to monthly board meetings, since 2006, the Association has held an annual Airfield Maintenance Seminar which routinely hosts over 60 participants from Western Canada on a variety of topics and presentations of interest to Alberta municipal and regional airports such as:

- Airfield lighting systems and theory of operations with practical in-field demonstrations,
- Pavement maintenance programs,
- Latest technologies in airport pavement markings,
- Revenue generation opportunities,
- Transport Canada legislative changes as they pertain to airports,
- Airport emergency planning

AAMA also facilitates training courses of interest to members and non-members on various subjects:

- Aerodrome Standards and Recommended Practices
- Airport Wildlife Management
- On-Scene Controller
- Safety Management Systems – Human Factors
- Winter Surface Condition Reporting

The Association also distributes a monthly AAMA Newsletter outlining media stories and municipal council minutes that deal with airport issues of interest to the membership. The Association also maintains a database of airport-related studies, reports and surveys that assist the membership in day-to-day airport operations.

**AAMA Members (58) as of August 2020**

**Airport Members**

Airdrie Airpark  
Athabasca County  
Big Lakes County  
Bonnyville Regional  
City of Brooks  
City of Camrose  
City of Cold Lake  
City of Lloydminster  
City of Medicine Hat.  
City of Prince Albert Airport  
City of Wetaskiwin  
Dawson Creek Regional Airport  
Drumheller Airport  
Edson Airport  
Estevan Regional Airport.  
Fort McMurray International Airport.  
Grande Prairie Airport  
High River Regional Airport Limited  
Lac La Biche County  
Lethbridge Airport.  
MD of Fairview No. 136  
MD of Opportunity No.17  
MD of Pincher Creek  
MD of Smoky River No. 130.  
MD of Taber  
Mackenzie County.  
Manning Airport  
Okotoks Air Ranch Airport  
Olds-Didsbury Airport Association

Rainbow Lake Airport  
Red Deer Airport  
Slave Lake Airport  
Strathcona County.  
Town of Fort Macloed  
Town of High Level Airport  
Town of Peace River  
Town of Rocky Mountain House  
Town of Vergreville  
Town of Vermillion  
Town of Vulcan  
Woodlands County  
Yellowhead County - Jasper Hinton Airport

**Corporate Members**

Approach Navigation Systems  
Cansel  
EFC Developments  
Global Airport Training Services.  
HM Aero  
Industrial Machine Inc.  
Integrated Airport Systems  
JetPro Consulting  
LRI Engineering Inc.  
Marshall Lines  
Swenson  
Team Eagle Ltd.  
Tetra Tech EBA Inc.  
The Loomex Group  
W.R. Meadows of Western Canada  
W.S. Nicholls Western Construction Ltd.