

From: Alberta News <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>
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To: Shelly Armstrong
Subject: News Release: Building Alberta's regional airport network

Building Alberta's regional airport network

April 04, 2024 [Media inquiries](#)

Alberta's government is investing \$1.13 million to support the development of regional airports across the province.

Alberta's regional airports connect people, create jobs and help local businesses reach new markets. This investment will facilitate the growth of the province's regional airport network, enabling the seamless movement of people and goods, and creating more opportunities for municipalities and local industry to thrive.

"Alberta's aviation industry plays an important role in strengthening and diversifying our economy by expanding access to markets and creating jobs in the province. Regional airports are key assets in supporting the air sector and the movement of people. This investment will support the growth of Alberta's regional airports and help restore and develop connections between our regional and international airports."

Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

The grant funding will support 10 regional airports in developing business cases and feasibility studies for improved airport infrastructure and air transportation. The projects will allow the airports to identify, explore and prioritize improvements and opportunities to increase their economic competitiveness, such as increasing the number of air carriers or the efficiency of aircraft movement to bolster the economic output of regional airports.

"Regional airports play a critical role in keeping Alberta connected and our economy growing. We are working with our partners to ensure all corners of the province are in the best position to attract job-creating investment and opportunities from around the world for all Albertans."

Matt Jones, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade

The grants include \$120,000 to the Red Deer Regional Airport for a land development strategy, which will inform the airport about how it can leverage infrastructure and facility improvements, such as terminal expansion and airside land development, that will better position the airport as a hub for economic activity.

“The continued support from the province positions the Red Deer Regional Airport as a compelling and competitive location to do business. Now more than ever, we are primed to attract new investment opportunities, create jobs and strengthen central Alberta’s economic landscape.”

Jim Wood, mayor, Red Deer County

The funded projects vary in scope and size depending on the specific needs of each airport. They include exploring airport certification to support scheduled air services, airport commercial development, commercial air services, hangar development and development of strategic business cases to restore regional airports’ positions as primary transportation hubs.

“CAEP is proud to showcase the importance of the Red Deer Regional Airport as a true ‘hub’ in the Central Alberta Region. Transportation is critical to a thriving region that leads to sophisticated manufacturing, technological innovation and investment attraction to enhance and support our economic corridors. Continued growth at the RDRA is proof that the region is thriving and a ‘destination of choice’ for investment.”

Tracy Gardner, executive director, Central Alberta Economic Partnership

The projects will also support the creation of an air service business case to attract new airlines, analyzing highest-need routes, determining baseline capacities of airport infrastructure, and identifying capital asset rehabilitation and replacement requirements.

“Regional airports support economic development and serve as a hub for emergency services for rural Alberta. The funding provided today will benefit many rural communities and represents a strong step in maintaining Alberta’s rural transportation network.”

Kara Westerlund, vice president, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

This investment demonstrates Alberta’s commitment to growing the aviation sector and diversifying the economy. Alberta’s government will continue working closely with regional airports to ensure they are drivers of economic growth in the province.

Quick facts

A total of \$1,129,424 is being provided to support 10 regional airports:

- **Cold Lake Regional Airport**
 - Feasibility Study for Airport Certification to Support Scheduled Air Services – \$144,000
- **Whitecourt Airport**
 - Commercial Development Feasibility Study – \$78,684
- **Lloydminster Municipal Airport**
 - Commercial Air Services Feasibility Study – \$113,988
- **Peace River Regional Airport**
 - Peace River Airport Master Plan – \$57,552
- **Lethbridge Airport**
 - Hangar Development Feasibility Study and Business Case – \$150,000
- **High Level Airport**
 - High Level Airport Master Plan – \$56,000
- **Red Deer Regional Airport**
 - Land Development Strategy and Implementation Plan – \$120,000
- **Medicine Hat Regional Airport**
 - Feasibility and Business Case for Airport Growth and Development – \$150,000
- **Grande Prairie Airport**
 - Canadian Border Services Agency Facilities Study – \$140,000
- **Fort McMurray International Airport**
 - Business Case to Recapture Lost Passenger Traffic – \$119,200

Multimedia

- [Watch the news conference](#)

Media inquiries

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