

NEWS RELEASE

July 9, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sechelt airport improvements celebrated

Sechelt, BC – The Sechelt runway extension and improvement is now complete, and the public is invited to the airport to celebrate. On Saturday July 24th from 10am to 12pm the public are invited to come to the airport to get a close-up look at some of the planes and helicopters that fly here, learn about the airport's history, and learn about how the facility contributes to our local economy.

Plans are in progress to have a firetruck and some other equipment for people to see up close and learn about. There will also be refreshments offered for sale by the Sechelt Rotary Club and some activities for children.

The airport improvements include a runway extension of the existing 686M runway of 248M for a new total runway of 944M as well as a resurfacing of the entire runway and apron. The installation of Precision Approach Path Indicator Lights System (PAPIS) to replace the old obsolete lights will take place in the coming weeks. The new LED lights allow pilots to adjust the brightness to suit weather conditions.

Mayor Darnelda Siegers stated, "These improvements have been in the planning stages for nearly a decade and I am pleased we are able to make this vision a reality at no cost to the Sechelt taxpayer. The airport is an important part of our local economy as the businesses located there employ our citizens and the transportation services bring tourists to the Coast."

Sanath Bandara, manager of municipal construction and infrastructure renewal, stated, "The runway extension and resurfacing came in \$158,000 under budget which allowed us to significantly improve the lighting. This will be a great benefit to pilots who use this amenity."

The total cost of the runway improvements is \$3.1 million and funded from:

- BC Air Access Grant \$2,388,703.00
- Community Works Fund (Gas Tax) \$796,234.00

The total cost of the lighting improvements is projected to be \$604,044 with funding from:

- \$158,856 surplus from the runway project
- \$64,000 BC COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant



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- \$381,188 Community Works Fund Reserve (Gas Tax)

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