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Cargo Designation and Strong Passenger Numbers Mark the New Year for Abbotsford Airport

Abbotsford, February 20, 2008 - Abbotsford International is soaring to new heights in 2008 with a new cargo designation and increased passenger numbers.

Last week, Abbotsford International Airport was approved by Transport Canada for the International Air Cargo Transshipment Program. This program designates Abbotsford Airport as a preferred cargo destination. It simplifies air carrier access to airports by allowing goods to be moved through Canada for shipment to third countries and is a major step to developing air cargo activity at Abbotsford Airport.

“We are pleased to be part of the air cargo transshipment program,” says Dave Kandal, Chair of the Abbotsford Airport Authority. “Participation in the program will greatly enhance the Abbotsford Airport’s ability to become a key player in the air cargo industry and increase the economic opportunities to our region.”

YXX joins an exclusive list of Airports with the transshipment designation, including Hamilton, Windsor, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary. With this program in place, Abbotsford will be a preferred designation for cargo and achieve one of the major components outlined in the airport’s master plan. YXX was recognized by Transport Canada due to its ideal location. With easy access to all major transportation networks, Highway 1, and two border crossings, the airport can take full advantage of the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

The airport continued to break passenger records with January numbers. The passenger numbers for January 2008 increased 3.9 percent over January 2007.

“This is great news for the airport, and we plan to continue this momentum throughout 2008,” adds Kandal. “As travelers continue to discover the ease and convenience of YXX we’re working hard to improve their experience here.”

Renovations to the International Arrivals area were completed in December and enhancements in the food and beverage area are underway. White Spot is scheduled to open a restaurant and lounge area in the airport terminal this spring. Also coming this spring, is non-stop service from Abbotsford to Toronto. WestJet will operate this service beginning May 18.

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Abbotsford International Airport is the Lower Mainland's regional airport serving over 508,000 passengers annually from Surrey to Hope. Conveniently located off the trans-Canada highway, Abbotsford International offers daily service to Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver Island, and starting in May, daily direct service to Toronto! Abbotsford Airport also offers a seasonal weekly charter service to Mexico. With close, affordable parking, on-site wi-fi service, and self-serve check in kiosks, Abbotsford is the preferred choice for travelers wanting a friendly, easy and stress-free travel experience.

For more information contact:

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