



Ron Oszust
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Greetings Mr. Oszust,

COPA has been notified that the City of Golden is currently conducting a study on the viability of the Golden Airport and would like to offer our support in its continued operation.

Located between Vancouver and Calgary, in the rocky mountains between Revelstoke and Lake Louise, the City of Golden is ideally positioned to offer an abundance of year-round attractions to locals and tourists alike. Being surrounded by the Canadian Rockies presents a myriad of year-round activity opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast. The City additionally provides an abundance of amenities to accommodate tourists from across the county and the globe. In this context alone, the Golden airport becomes an important asset to tourism in providing a key means of arrival to the region.

General Aviation Economic Impact

The influence of General Aviation on the Canadian economy totals nearly \$9.3 billion, according to an economic impact study conducted by COPA in 2017 (this Study was provided). The Province of British Columbia ranks third after Ontario and Alberta in its contribution to the economy. The Golden airport can be a significant contributor to the economic growth of the City. There are several examples of airports across the country who have partnered with their township/cities and developed profitable financial strategic plans which enabled the viability of the local airport and benefitted the whole community.

As detrimental as COVID has been on numerous fronts, an opportunity currently exists to promote your City to Canadians who have been constrained in their choice of travel destinations and are now looking to new possibilities and experiences within our borders.

Safety Consideration

The Golden Airport is part of an important safety network of General Aviation aerodromes spread throughout the Rockies. Its contribution to this network is instrumental as it is strategically located. Mountain flying does not come without its challenges. Rapidly changing weather is a real hazard to any pilot flying in this part of the country. The accessibility to these small aerodromes plays a vital role in the success of flights through this region when unplanned inclement weather is encountered or inflight emergencies occur. The location of the Golden Airport is crucial in providing pilots and their passengers a safe place to land when faced with these perilous scenarios. Additionally, the airport provides a tactical site for Search and Rescue operations, medical evacuations and forest fire operations when required.


COPA believes that the City of Golden should continue to support its airport and explore how the airport can actually “work” for the City and play an important role in its economic growth and maintain the important role it plays in the General Aviation aerodrome safety network of the Canadian Rockies.

Sincerely,



Christine Gervais
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