

Your Community Airport



An Aviation Gateway

Your airport provides vital services to General Aviation and important benefits to your Community.

It's part of a system of over 700 small airports in Canada.



What is General Aviation?

General Aviation (G/A) is all civilian aircraft flying except scheduled passenger airlines.

95% of the aircraft in Canada are G/A aircraft. Of these 82% are privately owned. Privately owned aircraft are used for business and personal transportation just like the family car, but they require much less infrastructure. *One km of highway takes you one km, but one km of runway takes you anywhere!*



Successful airports are a boon to the communities they serve because they are transportation infrastructure, just like highways, roads, parking lots, and side walks.



Community Airports are Economic Engines

Recent economic impact studies have shown that even modest-size airports can be huge economic generators for their communities.

Some examples:	Red Deer AB	Lloydminster AB	Oshawa ON	Nelson BC	Kingston ON
Full-time job equivalents	439	58	215	41	332
Direct economic impact	\$78,914,000	\$6,030,000	\$28,322,000	\$10,700,000	\$42,800,000
Community population	72,000	20,000	141,000	9,200	113,000

Sources: Aviation Alberta Small Airports Study 2005; Nelson Airport Study 2004; Oshawa Airport Study 2005; Kingston Airport Study 2007.

The direct economic benefits of these sample airports ranges from \$200 to \$1100 per capita. These numbers *do not* include indirect benefits and business generated by visitors and tourists, which can be many times greater.

Community Airports Provide Social Benefits

- ➔ They provide residents with access to distant emergency health care services
- ➔ They provide access to Canada's national air transportation network
- ➔ They act as a focal point for recreational and volunteer opportunities
- ➔ They facilitate an accelerated response to natural disasters and emergencies



Encourage Growth of G/A at Your Airport



Pilots are a great source of volunteers. Local flying clubs and COPA Chapters can help with airport maintenance, hold an airport open house, organize Junior Aviator days to give kids in the community their first airplane ride, give airplane rides to raise money for charity, use their aircraft to help out in emergencies, and much more.

Be a Successful Airport

Successful airports have traffic - people use them. They don't necessarily have scheduled air service, that would be nice, but they tend to have services like fuel, aircraft storage, aircraft maintenance, and flight training.

Successful airports provide services needed in their communities. They:

- ✓ facilitate medivac flights
- ✓ facilitate disaster evacuation and recovery
- ✓ bring business and commerce to the community
- ✓ facilitate courier operations
- ✓ bring visitors and tourists to the community
- ✓ provide a base for agricultural aviation services
- ✓ provide a base for flight training
- ✓ provide a base for charter operators
- ✓ provide a base for search and rescue operations
- ✓ provide a recreational facility for the community
- ✓ provide a destination for school, scout and cadet field trips
- ✓ link your community to the world



Warning!
Landing fees may be harmful
To your airport's health!

There are many ways to raise money to support your airport, but a landing fee for small aircraft is not one of them. Private pilots will avoid airports with landing fees if at all possible. Several airports in Canada have experimented with a landing fee and in all cases have discovered it drives away business. The average revenue generated by one visiting aircraft in fuel, food, local transportation, lodging and tourism is over \$500. Why throw this away?

If landing fees must be charged this fact must be made known to pilots through the airport's listing in the *Canada Flight Supplement* so they can make informed decisions. Hidden fees add insult to injury and will guarantee pilots will not return.

For more information

COPA's Guide to Public Airports contains lots of valuable information to help you run your airport successfully. To obtain a copy contact the COPA office or visit our web site.



Canadian Owners and Pilots Association
71 Bank St., 7th Floor, Ottawa, ON K1P 5N2
Tel: 613-236-4901 Fax: 613-236-8646
Web site: www.copanational.org

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