



PROJECT OVERVIEW

TITLE: *Small Airport Improvement*

Date: November 2009

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will build on existing work done by the Federal and Provincial Governments and local airport authorities. It will take into account community and regional plans and priorities for economic diversification. Existing airports (excluding Prince George and Smithers), will be assessed for their real potential to support economic growth and diversification. Limiting conditions and upgrade opportunities for physical infrastructure and services will be analyzed and reported along with recommended priorities.

RATIONALE:

Airports are an important link in the region's infrastructure, and have been identified as key aspects of the economic growth and competitiveness strategies for the mining and tourism sectors. They also play a key role in the ability of communities to attract and retain skilled workers. The business climate for the service sector is improved considerably by dependable air transportation, as are emergency response services. Improvements to airports increase the capacity to handle larger aircraft, operate under adverse weather conditions, accommodate freight and passengers, and generate spin-off business.

PARTNERS:

Work will be carried out in conjunction with the appropriate organizations, including Transport Canada, the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, local governments and airport authorities, the airline industry and user groups (including business sectors, health and emergency service providers, and local economic or community development groups).

TIMELINES:

Completion by October 31, 2010 to inform infrastructure investment decisions in subsequent years.

RESOURCES:

The OBAC will provide project support to act as a catalyst for the project, and will contribute up to \$(TBD) in matching funding to carry out the project. The total OBAC contribution is expected to be \$(TBD).

In-kind and cash resources from partners, including a possible application to the NDIT (Feasibility Studies or Marketing Program and Economic Diversification Infrastructure Program) and/or Western Diversification are expected to be up to \$(TBD).

REGIONAL STRATEGY: *Integrated Regional Infrastructure / Mining and Minerals / Tourism / Emergency Management / Attraction and Retention*

ACTIVITY

- *Beginning with Vanderhoof and Mackenzie, carry out needs and feasibility analysis for upgrades to small airports in the region*

OUTPUTS

- *Identified regional priorities for investment in upgrades*
 - *Business analysis and rationale for investments*

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- *Cost-effective investments in airports*
- *Increased viability of airline industry*
- *Better access for emergency services*

OUTCOMES

- *Improved competitiveness for all sizes of business*
 - *Improved workforce attraction and retention*
- *Mining and tourism business growth*