



## **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Record Setting Year at Abbotsford International Airport**

**ABBOTSFORD January 24, 2017**: 2016 was a record setting year in passenger numbers for the Abbotsford International Airport (YXX), announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

YXX has seen significant growth and development over the past several years, including major terminal renovations, the addition of an international customs building, and the ongoing development of strong relationships with existing and new tenants, businesses, and major airlines; all of which have contributed to this record setting year for the Abbotsford International Airport.

Final passenger statistics for 2016 total 530,643 persons, which is an increase of 42,810 persons or 8.78 per cent over 2015.

"Abbotsford International Airport has a vision to be recognized as a competitive regional gateway promoting high quality economic growth and development," said Braun. "YXX is achieving that vision with this year's record passenger volume. By seeing more people through the gates, the airport will continue to support the economic vitality of the local community and establish its role as a vital regional transportation network."

Part of the success of YXX's growth comes from its core business strategy of continuing to grow its business base through existing concessionaires, partners and airlines while encouraging new business to locate on the airport grounds.

"WestJet congratulates the entire Abbotsford International Airport on their banner success in 2016," said Bob Cummings, WestJet Executive Vice President, Commercial. "Over the past two decades our airline has brought millions of guests in and out of Abbotsford, and we are continually impressed with the team's collective commitment to service, efficiency and low-cost. We reference Abbotsford's low cost and fees as a model to be emulated by other airports. WestJet looks forward to working with the team towards another banner year in 2017."

"The success and growth of Abbotsford International Airport begins with the strategy to create and develop relationships with industry and community partners," said Jim Young, President and CEO of NewLeaf Travel. "NewLeaf Travel Company is privileged to be among those partners as Abbotsford continues to be a high-performing destination for NewLeaf's route network."

Key to YXX's future success is its ongoing strategy to innovate and empower the business community. By using a partnership business model, YXX is positioned well for opportunities and growth in 2017.

For more information on the Abbotsford International Airport, please visit www.abbotsfordairport.ca.

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