

## **Press Release**

### **City of Castlegar Receives Airport Grant**

- \$1.3 Million in Funds to Revitalize Airport -

April 10, 2019 — the City of Castlegar has received a grant that will make an important re-investment in the West Kootenay Regional Airport in 2019.

A \$1,296,811 grant received from Transport Canada's Airport Capital Assistance Program will rehabilitate airfield lighting and electrical systems. The City will contribute \$68,250 (5% of total project costs) to the \$1,365,000 project. The Independent Power Unit, cabling and approach lighting system was installed in 1986, and have exceeded their service life.

"Solid and sustainable civic infrastructure is a key emphasis in the City's 2019 budget, and is one of five Council Strategic Plan pillars," says Mayor Bruno Tassone. "Airport enhancement is a priority given it is an important economic driver for both the City and the West Kootenay."

This project adds to numerous City airport-related initiatives that promote flying more, with fewer cancellations, and a safety-first mantra. Airport renaming and rebranding in 2012; \$100K investment in design and infrastructure improvements in 2013; and a major financial and administrative push to implement a Registered Navigation Procedure (GPS- based navigation program using software installed in planes that allows for curved approaches rather than the current straight-line approaches) that would significantly reduce winter flight cancellations.

The City portion of funding of this project is included in the approved 2019 capital budget.

Grants will fund 26% of the City's \$10,100,000 capital budget in 2019. The City works hard to apply for grants given they provide good leverage of taxes paid by City residents.

## **About the City of Castlegar ([www.castlegar.ca](http://www.castlegar.ca))**

The City of Castlegar (pop. 13,700 City and area, trade area 70,000) is a service centre within British Columbia's West Kootenay interior, including presence of the West Kootenay Regional Airport and Selkirk College's main campus. The economy is diversified and growing, focused on forestry (Zellstoff Celgar Mill, Interfor), energy (Columbia Power), and mining (Teck) sectors in the Valley, and commercial services in the City. Quality of life features backcountry adventure and an increasingly dynamic urban culture, including addition of Millennium Ponds and the annual Sculpture Walk event in recent years. The City's desirability as an affordable business and lifestyle choice will continue to grow with anticipated investments in a new recreation complex, redevelopment of the City's primary commercial artery, first sales of West Kootenay Centre lands (39 acres) adjacent to the airport, and TELUS extension of 250/250 broadband service that will address the City's interest in attracting entrepreneurs and creative industries.

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