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Richmond Chamber to Feds: Keep Opening Skies to YVR

In a letter sent to Transport Canada today, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce called on the Federal Government to keep opening up the Canadian skies to Vancouver International Airport.

“We’re bullish on YVR and their opportunities,” said Barbara Tinson, Chair of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. “More air linkages to the international markets are critical to Richmond’s economic development. With over 60% of our community being of Asian heritage, we see great opportunity for enhancing our economic, social and cultural relations with the Asia Pacific region in particular.”

“YVR is a critical component of our Asia Pacific Gateway,” said Tinson. “We also see YVR as being a key international air transportation hub to North America, South America and Europe.” Tinson’s letter was in response to consultation being undertaken by Transport Canada on its proposed New International Air Policy.

“This is all about growing Canada as a major international exporter and importer. It’s about growing our tourism and cargo business for B.C. and Canada. And it’s about making YVR more of an international competitor and major supplier of local and provincial transportation jobs – because as YVR grows, so does our provincial economy,” said Tinson.

“We strongly support recognizing the needs of users of international air transport and we urge the federal government to pursue open skies agreements with other nations. We also strongly support pursuing open skies agreements with other nations,” said Tinson. “We recommend the continuation of the existing foreign air carrier access provisions as an interim measure, while the open skies policy is being implemented,” said Tinson.

Tinson noted that air access is essential for the ability of Canadian industry to effectively compete in today’s global marketplace. “We strongly support the Federal Government’s proposed New International Air Policy, as it will help level the playing field with our competitors in the U.S. and other nations, which have more open air access provisions,” she said. “We congratulate the Federal Government for being proactive in this huge economic initiative. It will benefit Richmond, British Columbia and all of Canada. We encourage Transport Canada to expedite the implementation of this policy.”

The RCC has over 1,200 small, medium and large business members, and is celebrating over 80 years of commitment to making Richmond a positive place to do business. It serves as a catalyst and unifying body for the driving forces of the Richmond economy and actively engages in key sectors of economic development. Most recently, it has been undertaking initiatives to enhance the City’s role as a key Canadian business gateway to the Asia Pacific. It is the Richmond’s most influential and diverse business organization.

For Further Information:
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