

The marginal impact of the Nanaimo Airport expansion, so far, is

**116 JOBS AND
\$13 MILLION**

in economic output.



**CASE
STUDY**

**IMPACT ON REGION:
NANAIMO AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT**

The Nanaimo Airport Expansion project involved the lengthening of the runway to accommodate larger passenger jets, landing reliability equipment upgrades as well as terminal upgrades. The project's purpose was to provide superior linkages between the burgeoning Nanaimo and mid-Island markets and the world. As the second largest population centre on Vancouver Island, the Nanaimo area was believed to have significant untapped potential for increased air travel with minimal impact on the region's other airports.

The airport has enjoyed record-setting growth since the project was completed. Passenger traffic records increased every month of 2012 to culminate in a total yearly increase of more than 10%. These 2012 increases have been driven in large part by the much-improved reliability of the airport, which has increased to 99+% on an annual basis.

The airport improvements provided the foundation required to attract the new WestJet carrier Encore to the airport. This new service has opened a new transportation corridor with direct

service to Calgary and connecting service to other destinations across Canada and the US. The direct link to Alberta is expected to create significant investment and resident attraction opportunities for the entire region.

In 2013, passenger statistics are again up significantly with a year to date increase (June 2013) of 8.8% and this is expected to rise again due to the new carrier operations. June 2013 passenger numbers, with only 7 days of the carrier operations, have increased by 18.3%.

Prior to the expansion project it was estimated the airport supported 584 jobs in the mid-Island region and \$41 million in direct and indirect economic output. These figures are estimated to have increased to 700 jobs and \$54 million in economic output in 2012 and are expected to rise significantly in 2013.

The Nanaimo Airport Commission is continuing to work with air carriers to increase the number of daily flights to Vancouver and to establish direct service to other destinations. Discussions are underway to secure new airport tenants. These new businesses are expected to be added within 18-24 months.