

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

TO: Darla Blake, Chief Administrative Officer
 FROM: Cheryl Waugh, Transportation Services Coordinator
 SUBJECT: Transportation Services Report – January 30, 2014

This report is for the periods December 2013 and January 2014

Recommendations:

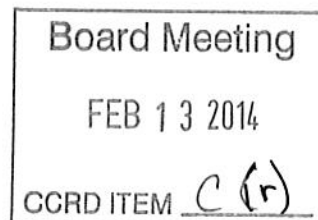
1. That the Transportation Services Report dated January 30, 2014 be received.
2. That the CCRD enter into a lease agreement with Jennifer Taylor for use of the Northeast office in the terminal building of the Bella Coola Airport.

Bella Coola Airport**Airport Emergency Exercise**

On December 13, 2013 the Bella Coola Airport executed a full-scale emergency exercise in conjunction with ski guide training exercises being performed by Bella Coola Heli Sports and West Coast Helicopters. The exercise is a means to test the airport's emergency plan and is a requirement every four years. The exercise also saw participation by BC Ambulance Services, the RCMP, Hagensborg Fire Department, representatives from the Canadian Rangers, Bella Coola Valley Search and Rescue and other volunteers.

The professionally designed scenario involved a helicopter crash onto a gravel bar in Nooklikonnick Creek while on a landing approach to the runway. There was a fire and passengers on board. Emergency services were dispatched, the fire was extinguished and two ambulances and crew attended to the injured. That involved thorough assessment and treatment of the injured, transfer to stretchers and into the ambulances. The situation developed further when it was discovered two passengers were missing and a search began along the river bank until they were found, treated and transported. Most of the participants attended a debriefing session afterwards, which provided valuable feedback for everyone as to what went right or wrong and the need to consider both sides in reviewing emergency planning.

A sincere thank you to the personnel associated with Bella Coola Heli Sports and West Coast Helicopters for expanding their scenario to include the CCRD and for all of the other agencies who willing participated. It was an outstanding cooperative experience.





Bella Coola Airport Emergency Exercise

N/E Terminal Office

As of January 1, 2014 the 160² office on the main floor of the terminal building became vacant. Bella Coola Heli Sports had been a tenant there since 2005 but no longer required the space. The vacancy was advertised and an interest party has agreed to enter into a new lease agreement effective February 1, 2014. Jennifer Taylor has plans to operate a coffee and snack shop out of the space, catering to airline passengers. See *Recommendation 2. That the CCRD enter into a lease agreement with Jennifer Taylor for use of the Northeast office in the terminal building of the Bella Coola Airport.*

West End Trees

Planning continues to address the challenges of tree removal off the west end of the runway. A survey undertaken late in 2013 indicates the declared approach surfaces are not clear of all obstacles (tree height). Overall the project will be challenging and staff is working towards identifying evidence of property boundaries, environmental conditions and conducting a timber profile. Initial steps have been taken and an action plan created and we will work diligently to see the declared surfaces brought back into compliance with requirements for the airport.

December Wind Storm

On December 14th, 2013 a wind storm impacted the airport lands with extra strong gusts resulting in sundry damage to several adjacent properties. The *Welcome to Bella Coola* sign, which stands airside at the terminal building, now only says *Welcome* as the rest was blown apart. Although it has been recognized the sign was at the end of its natural life this was an unexpected demise. Further, the gale bent the furnace chimney stack over and compromised the securing bracket, both of which have since been repaired. Pacific Coastal Airlines has agreed to sponsor the provision of a new sign.

Telus Payphone

Telus will be removing the payphone at the airport in the near future. Although a plea was made to maintain the service, the phone falls far below the minimum requirements of use. Some options were suggested by Telus but they were not deemed viable and in consideration there is some functional cellular service in place at the airport there will be no further engagement with Telus by the CCRD at this time.

Meeting Room Renovations

A new carpet will be installed in January in the upstairs meeting room thanks to a generous donation of materials and labour from Bella Coola Heli Sports. A general tidying up of the room and setting up the

CCRD's old board room table and chairs will refresh the space and provide a more professional and comfortable meeting place for community groups. Thank you to Swede Mattsson and his staff.

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Miscellaneous

-Furnace in the terminal building was malfunctioning during the cold weather in December and a repair has been affected which so far appears to be working well.

-Medevac called in advance for a runway condition report. This is a service we currently provide but it will be amended to be available to scheduled flights only (Pacific Coastal Airlines) due to our obvious inability to visually report on conditions.

-NAV Canada requested assistance with a lock repair to access their airside building.

-442 Squadron out of Comox made a phone enquiry about food service availability during a potential stop over. They seemed disappointed to learn the closest services are in Bella Coola town and that transportation would be required. There is no confirmation that they flew in.

-A request was received from the Victoria Flying Club for a prize donation to support an event they are organizing called the BC Airport Challenge. They are challenging all of their members to fly to as many of BC's 92 airports as possible in 2014. Participants are eligible to win a variety of prizes and all donors will be acknowledged in both print and via social media. The CCRD donated a small backpack promoting emergency preparedness, along with an emergency planning guide, a Bella Coola Valley Visitor Guide and a CCRD lapel pin.

Denny Island Airport

The Denny Island Airport Commission did not meet in December or January.



Transportation Services Coordinator