



Proposed North Cariboo Airport Service

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the proposed new North Cariboo Airport Service?

A: The City of Quesnel owns and operates the Quesnel Regional Airport. The airport requires a contribution from local taxpayers to maintain operations, in addition to revenue from airport users and passengers. As rural areas of the North Cariboo receive the economic and social benefits of the airport, the Cariboo Regional District is proposing a new tax for rural areas to support the airport.

What areas are included in the new taxation boundary?

A: The new taxation boundary includes all of Electoral Areas A, B, C and I of the Cariboo Regional District as per the attached map. The City of Quesnel will continue to collect the airport tax from its residents and businesses at the same residential tax rate as the rural areas. About 12,772 residents live in Electoral Areas A, B, C and I and 9,879 people live in the City of Quesnel.

How much is the contribution to support the airport?

A: The Cariboo Regional District will provide the funding through a three-year contribution agreement with the City of Quesnel for \$66,000 per year.

What is the proposed tax rate going to be?

A: The residential tax rate to support the airport will be about \$3.65 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of land and improvements. The rate will be the same for City of Quesnel and Regional District residents.

What services and benefits are provided by the airport?

A: The airport has scheduled flight service seven days a week from Central Mountain Air amounting to about 18,000 passengers per year along with business charter and private aircraft for an average of 10,000 total aircraft movements per year. The airport is critical for medical emergencies with 120 medevac flights per year.

The airport is vital for the RCMP and other agencies during emergency events, such as forest fires and floods.

The airport served as an air base for the BC Wildfire Service in the effort to control large interface wildfires in rural areas of the region in 2017.

The airport connects the north Cariboo to the provincial, national and international air transportation network. This connection allows the area to remain attractive to industrial and commercial interests, improving its potential for economic development. The airport and its connections also make it possible for head offices of major

corporations to locate in Quesnel, providing significant local benefits and employment.

The airport is also the host site for Skyfest, the Quesnel International Airshow, which is a major economic and tourism driver for the area.

What is the current overall operating budget for the airport?

A: After factoring in the airport's revenue, the current estimated taxation subsidy required to operate the airport is \$180,000 per year. If the new Regional District airport tax is established, the CRD will contribute \$66,000 per year and the City of Quesnel will contribute \$114,000.

Will rural residents have a say in how the airport operates?

A: An airport advisory committee will be created along with the contribution from the Regional District. City and CRD elected officials will participate, as well as members of the public, to provide input into airport operations.

Will there be a referendum?

A: Yes. In order to establish the proposed new North Cariboo Airport contribution service, the Cariboo Regional District must hold a referendum. The goal is to hold the referendum in conjunction with the local government general election in October 2018. All eligible voters within electoral areas A, B, C and I will be able to vote in the referendum.

What happens if the referendum fails?

A: If the referendum does not pass, the Regional District cannot establish the new tax to support the airport. This lack of financial support from rural residents may result in a reduction of airport services and jeopardize the long-term viability of the airport.

