



Proposed North Cariboo Airport Service

About the Proposed Service

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

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?

The new taxation boundary includes all of Electoral Areas A, B, C and I of the Cariboo Regional District. 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?

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

What is the proposed tax rate going to be?

The residential tax rate to support the airport will be about \$3.61 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?

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

Why don't airport users cover the cost of operating the airport?

Airport users and scheduled flight passengers do pay the majority of the airport's operating costs – generally between 70-80 per cent. Established landing fees apply to aircraft including private flights and government agencies such as the BC Wildfire Service, RCMP and medivac flights. There are several hangar leases at the airport as well and aircraft fuel sales are an important revenue source.

What is the current overall operating budget for the airport?

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?

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

What happens if the referendum fails?

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.





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Voting Details

Voting Requirements

There are two types of voters. *Resident* and *non-resident*. There is no need to pre-register to vote, as the registration of all electors for voting will take place at the time of voting.

Resident: You can vote if you live within Electoral Areas A, B, C or I (see the interactive map on the CRD website). You **MUST** be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old, have lived in BC for at least the last six months and in the area for at least the last 30 days.

Non-resident: You can vote if you have owned property for at least 30 days in Electoral Areas A, B, C or I, but live elsewhere in BC. You must also be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old, and have lived in BC for at least the last six months. **There is only one vote per property for non-resident property electors. If more than one person owns the property, the signatures of a majority of the owners are required.** Contact the Chief or Deputy Chief Election Officer prior to voting day for more details.

Bring Identification

Please bring at least two pieces of ID. One of them must have a signature. Between the two, they should prove your address, but if you do not have something with your current address you are allowed to make a formal declaration of residency. Picture identification is not necessary. Typical examples of ID that people use are driver's license, BCID, firearms license, CareCard, credit card, SIN, status card, bank card, etc. Even a utility bill will work as a secondary piece of ID.



Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting is available if you will be away on all three voting opportunities, are physically unable to attend or live 90 km away from a polling station. You can request a mail ballot by phoning the Chief or Deputy Chief Election Officer starting on September 25, 2018 until 4 p.m. on October 18, 2018. A mail ballot package will be sent to you around October 5, 2018, and you are able to drop it off or mail it back. It must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 p.m. on October 20, 2018 to be counted.

Referendum Question

"Are you in favour of the adoption of Bylaw No. 5151, which would provide a contribution of funds for the provision of airport services at the Quesnel Regional Airport? The maximum annual requisition would be the greater of \$90,000 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0682/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area. (Based on 2018 assessed values, the current residential tax rate for the contribution to airport services would be \$3.61/\$100,000.)"

Where and When to Vote

ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

CRD Library Quesnel Branch, Program Room

- Wednesday, Oct. 10 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 15 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, Oct. 20 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- CRD Library Quesnel Branch, Program Room
- Kersley School
- Red Bluff School
- Bouchie Lake School
- Parkland School
- Barlow Creek School
- Nazko School
- West Fraser Fire Hall

** Note that these voting opportunities are being held in conjunction with the General Local Government election. **

Voting Questions?

Alice Johnston, Chief Election Officer
Lore Schick, Deputy Chief Election Officer
mailbox@cariboord.ca
(250) 392-3351 or 1-800-665-1636

Interactive Map

Use the searchable map on cariboord.ca to see if your property is in the boundary. The new taxation boundary includes all of Electoral Areas A, B, C and I.

