



**MEETING EDE 16-20-24**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024**  
**EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**10:30 AM**

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**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters: Briefing on YZF Airport with Chair of YZF Airport Economic Advisory Committee and Officials from the Department of Infrastructure
5. New Business
  - a)
6. Date and Time of Next Meetings:
  - a) Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 10:30AM – Committee Business
7. Adjournment

**STEPHEN R. LOUTITT**  
**DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

**OPENING REMARKS FOR**

**Technical Briefing on Economic strategic initiatives, goals, and objectives**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you to the Committee for inviting us here today to provide a briefing on the Yellowknife Airport (YZF) Economic Strategic Initiatives, Goals and Objectives.

With me today, from the Department of Infrastructure, I have:

- Mr. Sam Shannon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations;
- Mr. Jason Carroll, Regional Superintendent, North Slave;
- Mr. Randy Straker, Regional Airport Manager, Yellowknife Airport;
- Ms. Sarah Hodgins, Business & Marketing Officer, Yellowknife Airport;  
and
- Ms. Jennifer Lukas, Senior Advisor.

Also joining us today is Mr. Peter Vician, Chair of the YZF Economic Advisory Committee.

In today's presentation, we'll provide you with insights into the value that YZF brings to the Territory. We'll discuss the airport's complexities, the collaboration among different stakeholders that makes daily operations possible, our bustling activity levels, our significant contribution to the economy, and finally a look ahead at anticipated improvements aimed at enhancing both the customer experience and the enduring value of YZF.

We will wrap up with an overview of our next steps as we continue to move forward with the YZF Gateway Strategy.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

# Yellowknife Airport (YZF)

## Where The North Connects

Economic strategic  
initiatives, goals, and  
objectives

June 6, 2024



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**Overview**

**YZF Gateway Strategy**

**Future Improvements**

**Next Steps**



# Work Completed to Date

## ***Stantec – 20-year Master Plan***

- Completed in 2018

## ***MXD Development Strategist Ltd. - Market/Economic Analysis***

- Completed Market/Economic Analysis in 2019

## ***Dillon - Consolidated Master Plan***

- Completed in 2024

## ***InterVista - YZF Strategic Plan – Gateway Strategy***

- Action-oriented working document that outlines the vision for the airport, the importance of YZF to the City and Territory, the economic importance of YZF and a strategic analysis about the future of the airport.
- It will include a capital improvement program with phasing for implementation, identifying critical capital decisions, cost estimation and defining each of the projects and financial plan.

## YZF Economic Advisory Committee

The Yellowknife Airport Economic Advisory Committee plays an integral role in shaping the economic future of the airport, which will have a profound effect on industry Impacted Parties and residents of the Northwest Territories. The committee is comprised of industry and experienced NWT business leaders who have guided the development of the YZF's Master and Strategic plans.

# Yellowknife Airport – Where the North Connects

## Vision

Stronger Airport.  
Stronger Impact.  
Stronger Economy.

## Mission

To provide and promote safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable air transportation that drives economic development by strengthening connections, capturing opportunities, and embracing innovation.

Yellowknife  
Population

**22,243** **+0.01%**

Yellowknife  
Population (2022)

Year-over-Year Growth  
Rate (2021-2022)

Northwest  
Territories  
Population

**44,972** **+0.6%**

NWT  
Population (2023)

Year-over-Year Growth  
Rate (2022-2023)

- The **Gateway to the Northwest Territories** and Western Arctic located only ten minutes from Yellowknife City Centre
- Serving over **375,000 (ATB) and 135,000 (FBO)** passengers annually across eight (8) carriers
- **Critical hub** for cargo, charter flights, general aviation, medical travel, and national defence operations
- Launching pad for **connecting services** by road and air to tourist activities across the Northwest Territories
- Recent **forecast** estimates that by 2025 ATB passengers will reach over 425,000 and FBO users will reach over 150,000.
- Supporting over **1000 direct jobs** with a direct economic output of just under \$600 Million.

## Top NWT Tourism Activities:

- Aurora Viewing (43% of leisure travel volume)
- General Touring (24%)
- Outdoor Adventure (9%)
- Fishing & Hunting (6%)
- Visiting Friends and Relatives (18%)



## Protecting Canada's Sovereignty in the North

- YZF acts as a crucial hub for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the North and has a **North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Forward Operating Location**
  - Accommodates fighter jets, support personnel, and storage facilities
- CAF supported firefighting & evacuation efforts from YZF in 2023
- DND owns and operates the Evans Building (home to JTFN HQ) in the City of Yellowknife and float docks by Great Slave Lake
- The 440 Squadron operates out of a DND-owned hangar on leased land at YZF. Part of the facility is leased to the RCMP.

### Upgrades to NORAD Forward Operating Location

- In June 2022, Canada launched a \$38.6 billion plan to modernize NORAD which includes upgrades to Northern Basing Infrastructure
- There is an upcoming upgrade/expansion of CAF facilities at the Yellowknife Forward Operating Location (southwest of aerodrome)
- Flexible Design: Multi-purpose opportunities will be considered with Indigenous and Northern governments and partners.



## Looking Ahead – Future Improvements

- **Check-in Area** → layout reconfiguration to support increased demand, optimize on queuing space and also improve passenger flow that currently obstructs the terminal activity and impeded on entrance doors to facility.
- **Pre-Board Screening** → required enhancements to accommodate queue length, increase throughput, passenger screening processing, and customer service enhancements (training).
- **Terminal Washroom** → accessibility improvements and layout design improvements are required
- **Airside Mobile Bridge Adapters** → improvements to the apron boarding and deplanement of passengers to address safety and accessibility concerns.
- **Baggage Claim Areas** → modifications with the existing layout to accommodate passenger waiting areas and create larger separation between the arrival process and facilitating non-screened activity.

## Next Steps

- Yellowknife Airport plays an important role to the Territory – and it's only getting busier.
- We connect the Territory by land and air.
- Our partners, the services we provide and how the Airport operates are key to a reliable, consistent and safe operation.
- Yellowknife Airport enables growth: tourism, economic, air services, DND, goods and services.
- YZF is not slowing down anytime soon with strong forecasts
- Enhancements for improvements aligned with the community, the partners and passengers needs.
- Next Steps: Continued cooperation and collaboration as we move through the next steps of this strategy.

## Next Steps

- InterVISTAS is working on completion of Case Studies, 2 of 4 interviews are completed and work is being done on securing dates and times for 2 additional studies.
- InterVISTAS is working with YZF on a short and mid strategy for Capital Plan Improvements
- Updates to be presented to the Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) at June's EAC Meeting.
- Targeting early summer for completion of the Strategic Plan along with the Case Studies and Capital Improvement Plan.
- Develop a strategy with InterVISTAS and EAC to present to various stakeholders and governments in the fall of 2024



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Questions?