

Regina International Airport Reports Jump in Travel in 2016

The Regina Airport Authority (RAA) did not need Frank Sinatra to tell Regina residents to “Come fly with me”. According to the 2016 Annual Report, the airport reported record-setting passenger counts. Last year, 1,262,899 passengers came through the airport, a jump of nearly 7,000 passengers from 2015.

“As we pursued our vision of being Saskatchewan’s leading travel gateway, in addition to working closely and diligently with our airline partners we also overhauled our airline marketing approach to include partnerships with destination airports. This resulted in Saskatchewan’s first and only direct non-stop flight to Orlando as well as new international seasonal destinations,” said Richmond Graham, RAA President and CEO.

“We also focused on the traveller’s experience in the air terminal and on the facilities that support airline operations. Some of our capital expenditures were ‘behind the scenes’ to our passengers but each investment makes a significant difference to the travel experience. Our total investment at YQR since we incorporated in 1999 now exceeds \$170 million with over \$70 million spent in the last two years,” Graham said.

The largest single capital improvement to the airport over the past year was the roughly \$15.5 million Apron 1 Expansion/Taxi Charlie project which will provide significantly expanded space for aircraft parking, refuelling, loading and unloading. The project created over 10 acres of paved land for aircraft as well as access to 12 acres of commercial lots.

“These investments, that reflect our vision to be Saskatchewan’s leading travel gateway and business hub, focuses our attention to serving our region well. We know the region’s economic success is, in part, driven from our success even during difficult economic times. You see it in our expanded community relations programs, the way we engage with communities across Saskatchewan and in being recognized by our industry for our marketing efforts. As we look to build on our growth in 2017, we’re excited to announce today the formation of an Air Services Development Committee that will consult with the community on developing new routes and how our airport can meet their needs. In this way, we will continue to help the people of Saskatchewan collect experiences and explore opportunities,” Graham said.

The full details of the RAA’s Annual Report and an interactive overview are available online at yqr.ca following the RAA’s open-to-the-public Annual Meeting that took place at the RCMP Heritage Centre earlier today. In addition, you can also get more information about the report on Twitter at #flyYQR and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flyYQR.

“The achievements outlined in our annual report are the result of many great people with a deep-seated dedication to Saskatchewan. The commitment and passion of hundreds that serve the airport and over 1,000 who work at YQR made all of this possible. We could not have risen to the challenges of 2016 without a strong YQR team. I would like to invite everyone to take a moment to look over the annual report to help us celebrate the achievements of our hard-working team,” said Graham.

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