



Making a difference...together

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September 16, 2026

File: 0200-20

Transport Canada Trade Diversification Corridors Fund Application Review Team

Dear Members of the Review Team:

RE: VICTORIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY APPLICATION TO THE TRADE DIVERSIFICATION CORRIDORS FUND

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to support the Victoria Airport Authority's (VAA) application to the Transport Canada Trade Diversification Corridors Fund (TDCF).

Victoria International Airport (YYJ) plays an essential role in meeting the transportation and trade needs of the capital region, including providing a crucial link for domestic and international business travel, trade, and tourism.

As you know, reliable and resilient airport infrastructure is vital to supporting the movement of people and goods, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring that businesses can access new and growing trade and economic opportunities.

In that context, the planned runway expansion and terminal upgrades at YYJ represent an important investment in the long-term capacity, safety, and reliability of the airport, which will greatly support economic diversification and increase travel options for residents of the capital region. By modernizing this essential infrastructure, the VAA modernization project will help improve trade and tourism connectivity for our community and ensure that Victoria International Airport can continue to meet our transport needs.

This project will also contribute to broader regional growth by supporting local businesses, attracting investment, creating economic opportunities, and strengthening Vancouver Island's connections with markets across Canada and beyond. Improved airport infrastructure will help ensure that the region remains competitive and well positioned to respond to future growth in passenger, cargo, and commercial activity.

The CRD Board encourages the Government of Canada to give its full consideration and support to the VAA's application to the TDCF.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cliff McNeil-Smith'.

Cliff McNeil-Smith

Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD