



Yellowknife Airport 20-year Master Plan Public Engagement

Government of
Northwest Territories



Background Information

About the Yellowknife Airport and its Air Terminal Building

The GNWT owns and operates the Yellowknife Airport (YZF).

As the primary aviation hub of the Northwest Territories (NWT), YZF hosts a number of businesses and industries that employ northerners while also contributing to economic growth; provide services that support our growing tourism sector; and provide essential services to our communities and residents.

The original Air Terminal building was constructed in 1967. Additions to the building were added in 1998 and 2005. The current building is approximately 5,500 square meters.

Why are you completing the Master Plan now?

The previous Master Plan was released in 2004. It was developed to address airport infrastructure needs to meet the forecasted passenger, aircraft movement and air cargo demands at that time until 2023. Much has changed since then and we now we must prepare for the future. A new Master Plan is required for the next 20 years, from 2023 to 2042.

What is a Master Plan?

The Airport Master Plan is a long-term guidance document that provides the framework for development at YZF for the next twenty years.

What is the content of the Master Plan?

A Master Plan includes not only the needs for infrastructure such as terminal, apron, taxiways and runways – but also the land needs associated with the airport.

The Master Plan includes a snapshot of the current airport status and identifies demand and forecasts. Future needs are based on population, industry trends, as well as passenger and aircraft movement statistics.

Why is a Master Plan important?

It is critical that the GNWT and YZF proceed with the adoption of a Master Plan that will guide development and establish triggers for development and capital upgrades. As volumes increase, the ability for the existing terminal building to expand and for the airport to provide more land

with direct aprons and taxiways will be limited. The new Airport Master Plan will guide the future growth, development and capital expenditures at the Airport.

How is YZF funded?

In 2017, YZF began operating as a revolving fund, where all funds generated at the airport are reinvested in the airport. This allows it to operate like a business and support growth opportunities. This means the airport is self-sustaining and no longer relies on the GNWT for funding.

This economic model requires the airport to generate its revenue through leases, concessions, parking, landing fees, cargo and fuel sales.

When will the Master Plan be completed?

We anticipate that the Master Plan will be completed by the end of July, 2022.

Who is developing the Master Plan?

The Master Plan is being developed by Dillon Consulting.