



YVR's winter readiness program

All of us on Sea Island are preparing for a busy winter travel season.

At YVR, maintaining safe and secure airport operations for passengers, employees, aircraft, and our community is the focus of everything we do.

Our top priority is ensuring departing passengers and their luggage reach their destinations safely, and on time, and that arriving passengers move through our airport smoothly and with confidence, even during times of challenging winter weather.

With temperatures dipping and snowfalls on our local mountains, this year's winter season is just around the corner, and teams at YVR have been working to prepare people and operations for the changing conditions. This includes a range of activities, such as:

- increasing our numbers of front-line staff to support arriving and departing passengers,
- deploying new snow and ice clearing equipment,
- extending our winter procedures and protocols to better coordinate with aviation agencies and our airline partners, and
- adding a variety of new communications tools to engage and inform travellers.

Meanwhile, we expect a significant number of travellers to pass through YVR this winter season. In December 2023, 2.04 million passengers and 1.97 million in January 2024 moved through our terminals. This year, with added capacity to Asia this holiday season, we expect to see even higher numbers for the 2024 holiday period.

Safety is our top priority, so – just as we walk more slowly and carefully on snowy streets, and leave more room between cars when we drive on wintry highways – airport operations proceed at a pace changing weather conditions allow. Even with the best equipment, staff, and plans, extreme winter weather can cause delays or even cancellations, as well as creating challenges in getting to the airport.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2022, YVR has expanded our snow removal fleet with: two high-powered, high speed runway snowblowers; four purpose-built apron sweepers that plow, sweep, air blast and apply liquid de-icer; two pickup truck spreaders that specialize in clearing apron vehicle corridors; and a variety of attachments. The investment in equipment is matched by an investment in our people. We've expanded our team size and training to allow us to focus on runway, taxiway, and apron clearing efforts simultaneously.

We encourage anyone flying out of YVR this winter season to give themselves extra time to arrive, and of course, check with their airline to ensure their flight is on schedule. And to all those Sea Island employees who have been practicing and working hard to keep our airfield and operations moving – even in the toughest west coast winter conditions – thank you.

Have a safe winter season from all of us at YVR!

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IMPERIAL HOBBIES
See Ad on Page 11



Rise in passengers, cargo, and new routes confirm YVR's role as economic engine for B.C.

In a keynote address at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade on October 30, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) president and CEO Tamara Vrooman outlined how YVR has managed a post-pandemic recovery and achieved strong growth while maintaining operational resilience and enhancing the passenger experience—all of which continue to impact provincial prosperity positively.

“A focus on harnessing innovation, advancing alternative energy, and embracing technologies that will allow YVR to become an integrated mobility hub is paying dividends when it comes to our airline partnerships, job creation, and connecting travellers to Canada and the world,” said Vrooman.

YVR’s ‘Digital Twin,’ a virtual, real-time representation of YVR’s terminal

buildings, airside operations, and facilities, provides YVR with a wide range of data, from real-time monitoring of passenger flows and airside operations to tracking the emissions of every single arriving and departing aircraft.

In July, YVR launched a pilot project with Vancouver-based A&K Robotics in which self-driving pods carrying passengers from security screening areas to gates are being trialled as part of federal and provincial Integrated Marketplace initiatives. The new technology is designed to provide another option for all passengers to navigate YVR’s terminals independently.

In addition, YVR has also partnered with Air Canada to introduce secure biometric technology or ‘Digital Identification.’ The new process will stream-



Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO of Vancouver International Airport (YVR), revealed how developing leading-edge technology, adopting alternative energy sources, and leveraging the airport’s unique geographic location are advancing the airport’s position as a key partner in supporting the region’s future economic growth.

line boarding for domestic flights, removing the need for Air Canada’s passengers to show boarding passes and IDs. YVR is the first airport in Canada to offer biometrics for Air Canada’s domestic flights, and the service began in early December.

YVR is on track to invest \$135 million to achieve net zero carbon emissions within the next five years. Currently, YVR’s transition to renewable electricity

and progress on its net zero carbon goals can be seen across every aspect of its operations.

For example:

- Battery-powered eco-buses facilitate YVR passenger movements on the apron.
- YVR’s work with Moment Energy will support the airport’s continued EV charging network expansion.
- YVR now has more than 100 specialized airside chargers, which power

more than 50 per cent of the airport’s licensed electrical ground support equipment (eGSEs).

- In partnership with the provincial government, YVR is delivering the B.C. Low Carbon Jet Fuel Incentive Program, the first of its kind in Canada. The program will offset the higher cost of low-carbon jet fuel and encourage its adoption.

See YVR’S ROLE AS ECONOMIC ENGINE page 4

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Digital Identification program

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Travel Talk:



Afternoon Tea at historic hotels

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YVR’s North Runway modernization launches in Spring 2025

Initially opened in 1996, YVR’s North Runway will soon receive upgrades to enhance operational resiliency. The work will begin in spring 2025 and be completed in fall 2025. Construction will occur during the existing nightly closure of the North Runway, which runs from

10pm to 7am daily, so there will be no impact on flight schedules or passengers.

The program, estimated to cost \$133 million, includes a complete asphalt overlay of the North Runway and connecting taxiways and supporting works to upgrade drainage systems and electrical and

lighting equipment.

Kiewit Corporation has been selected to deliver paving and construction services, and Tristar Electric has been selected to provide lighting and electrical work. DeltaTec, a Musqueam-owned-and-operated business, was chosen as a subcontractor to Tristar.



See NORTH RUNWAY MODERNIZATION page 4

New routes alert: Austin and Boston and Tampa

WestJet has announced its Vancouver summer 2025 schedule, revealing non-stop seasonal connectivity to Boston, Tampa, and Austin. As part of the airline’s commitment to expanding leisure connectivity from coast to

coast, WestJet will increase its seat capacity from Vancouver by 12 per cent.

“We are pleased to welcome WestJet’s expanded summer service with new non-stop flights to Austin, Boston, as well as Tampa, making

WestJet the only airline to fly to this port city,” said Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO at Vancouver International Airport. “These routes provide convenient access to popular destinations, benefiting our community and economy.”

Through WestJet’s longstanding partnership with Delta Air Lines, guests connecting through Boston

will access a vast network of U.S. destinations on a single purchased ticket and through checked baggage. ✈️



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North runway modernization from page 3


“This program includes important and necessary work for the long-term resilience of our North Runway, which serves millions of travellers and businesses each year,” said Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO at Vancouver International Airport. “We are pleased to be working with Kiewit, Tristar, and their subcontractors to carry out the program safely and on time.”

The program will generate an additional 100,000 person-

hours of work during construction, resulting in new jobs and economic value for the region.

“Kiewit, along with Lafarge Canada, is excited to have been selected by YVR to provide construction services for its North Runway Program,” said Ryan Tones, senior vice president at Peter Kiewit Sons ULC. “Our collective long histories of building important infrastructure projects across British Columbia, in addition to our long histories of

successful projects at YVR and airports across North America, will serve us well. We look forward to bringing our highly skilled staff and craft workforce and wide network of local suppliers and partners to help ensure we safely deliver this crucial project in the region.”

For more information about the North Runway Program and to sign up for regular updates as work progresses, please visit yvr.ca/northrunway. 

YVR's role as economic engine from page 3


YVR economic update

In 2023, YVR facilitated \$22 billion in province-wide economic output. This includes YVR Operations, combined with cargo handling and tourism, an increase from the \$20 billion YVR contributed

in 2018;

YVR recorded the second-highest cargo volume—320,000 tonnes—in the airport’s history, approaching the airport’s highest volume of 338,000 tonnes in 2018; 2023 was YVR’s best year of revenue and second-best year on record for earnings;

YVR welcomed 24.9 million passengers in 2023, a 31 per cent increase (or 5.9 million more) than 2022; and

YVR has been reassessed by S&P and Morningstar DBRS, and continues to enjoy the best credit rating of any airport in Canada. 

New transpacific route Air Canada launching Vancouver-Manila non-stop service

Starting April 2, 2025, Air Canada will begin non-stop service between YVR and Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport (MNL) in the Philippines.

The new service was announced in early December during the Government of Canada’s Team Canada Trade Mission, celebrating 75 years of Canada-Philippines diplomatic relations.

The new service to Manila is Air Canada’s third Southeast Asia destination launched in the last two years. Building off recent additional service



“Kumusta!” Starting April 2025, Air Canada will say a four-times-weekly “Hello” to Manila. Photo: courtesy Richmond Chi.

to Singapore and Bangkok, the new Vancouver-Manila route allows Air Canada to offer more than 180 weekly flights between Canada and the Pacific next summer, doubling its seat capacity over the Pacific since 2022.

The new route will operate four times weekly, using the airline’s flagship Dreamliner

aircraft. It will be Air Canada’s 12th route in its transpacific network from Vancouver, which includes Japan, South Korea, the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong SAR, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, leveraging Vancouver’s geographic position as the closest major North American city to Asia.


Flight	From	To	Day of Week	Depart Time	Arrival Time	Effective Dates
AC17	Vancouver (YVR)	Manila (MNL)	Mon, Wed, Fri	01:55	06:20+1 day	April 2 – April 30, 2025
AC18	Manila (MNL)	Vancouver (YVR)	Tues, Thur, Sat	09:25	06:20	April 3 – May 1, 2025
AC17	Vancouver (YVR)	Manila (MNL)	Tues, Thur, Fri, Sun	01:55	06:20+1 day	Effective May 1, 2025
AC18	Manila (MNL)	Vancouver (YVR)	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	06:20	09:25	Effective May 2, 2025

“Vancouver is thrilled to welcome Air Canada’s new flight to Manila,” said Mayor Ken Sim, City of Vancouver. “As the first Canadian airline to offer this route directly and year-round, it’s a meaningful

milestone that strengthens the connection between Canada and the Philippines.

“For our city’s vibrant Filipino community, it brings loved ones closer, makes reunions easier, and opens the door to even

more opportunities to connect and celebrate their heritage.”

Flights from Canada to Manila are available for booking on aircanada.com, through Air Canada’s contact centres, and via travel agents. 

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SKYTALK

Your Airport & Sea Island
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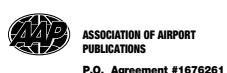
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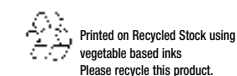
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YVR-Quest pop-up market aims to provide food for more than 9,000 people



YVR-Quest pop-up market aims to distribute satisfying festive meals for families facing food insecurity this holiday season.

On December 12, YVR and the Quest Outreach Society host the Annual Hamper Drive to help feed British Columbians facing food insecurity during the holiday season. The goal is to distribute 1,600 hampers, providing food for up to 9,600 people.

YVR will also donate \$65,000 to Quest to support this initiative and the organization's regular programming.

Employees at YVR, Sea Island aviation agencies, airline partners, passengers, and supporters are encouraged to shop at the YVR-Quest pop-up market, fill a reusable bag with groceries, and donate it to Quest Outreach Society.

The goal is to fill hampers with meal essentials and festive



favourites to ensure satisfying meals are delivered to families facing food insecurity across the Lower Mainland this holiday season.

The need is immense--more than 21 percent of British Columbians, or just over one million people, live in food-insecure households. According to a recent Food Bank Canada report, food bank visits in Canada reached a new high of

more than two million in March 2024—nearly double the number five years ago.

Initiatives such as the YVR-Quest Annual Hamper Drive are vital to addressing food insecurity in B.C., offering hope to those in need and fostering a sense of unity within the airport community.

The airport's Sea Island neighbours are encouraged to join in and participate. The

For the past 14 years, Quest has been an important, valued community partner of YVR, driven by a shared commitment to provide complete holiday meals for thousands of British Columbians.

pop-up market starts at 10am at The Spirit of Haida Gwaii: Jade Canoe, Level 3, International Departures.

All participation will help make a real difference in the lives of British Columbians this holiday season.

2024 Holiday Hamper Donation Impact Levels

\$25	Contributes to supporting half a hamper
\$50	Feeds up to 6 people (1 Hamper)
\$100	Feeds up to 12 people (2 Hampers)
\$500	Feeds up to 60 people (10 Hampers)
\$1000	Feeds up to 120 people (20 Hampers)
\$5000	Feeds up to 600 people

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Elevating the travel experience with Plaza Premium lounges

Passengers through YVR can now enjoy a world-class airport lounge experience with the first-in-North American Plaza Premium First (PPF).

In addition to the PPF, a new and reimagined Plaza Premium Lounge (PPL) is also welcoming passengers with time to spend before their flights.

Designed to cater to every type of traveller, regardless of airline and ticket class, this dual-concept space offers something for everyone. Whether you want to indulge in premium dining, relax in a tranquil atmosphere, or enjoy a comfortable spot before a flight, the Plaza Premium lounges have guests covered.

Here's what to look forward to inside



the new International terminal location:

- **Interactive Live Cooking Stations:** Seasonal menus with noodle and pasta bars, plus a signature poutine station.
- **Self-service bar:** For those looking to toast their trip, the lounge will feature a selection of soft drinks, juices, locally sourced wines and beer from B.C. partners, and spirits for guests to enjoy at their leisure.
- **Comfort and Relaxation:** The 1,000-square-metre space offers comfortable seating throughout and can accommodate over 250 guests across all areas.

- **Family-Friendly Features:** Lounges are designed to accommodate all travellers, offering board games, nursing rooms, and spaces for families to unwind.

For those seeking an elegant experience, Plaza Premium

First (PPF) offers an exclusive sanctuary featuring:

- **Gourmet à la carte menu:** Including signature dishes like Crab Omelette and Vegan Thai Curry, complemented by a premium buffet.
- **A full-service bar:** With fine wines, champagne, and handcrafted cocktails.
- **Complimentary showers and private relaxation spaces:** Providing a genuinely serene pre-flight experience.

This is the newest Plaza Premium First lounge, located between Gates D67 and D68 in the International terminal, and marks its debut in North America. It's one of only five globally and reflects British Columbia's natural beauty with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning mountain views and locally inspired design elements.

With three other locations across the terminal, Plaza Premium lounges are thoughtfully designed to enhance any

passenger's travel day.

Entry to Plaza Premium Lounge starts at CAD \$69, and to Plaza Premium First, it is CAD \$110. Access is available

through online bookings or walk-ins.

Whether travelling for business or leisure, Plaza Premium lounges at YVR are gateways

to a relaxing and personalized travel experience.

Space can be reserved. Please visit Plaza Premium Lounge for more information.

Parking at YVR

What's my best parking option at Vancouver International Airport?

There are many transportation options for getting to and from YVR, and when it comes to parking specifically, there are five unique lots at or near the airport. Follow the flowchart below to find the best parking option depending on what matters most to you.

	JETSET YVR PARKING	GATEWAY VALET	VALUE LONG TERM	PARKADE	CELL PHONE WAITING LOT
Half Hour	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$14.00 <small>Plus all applicable taxes/fees</small>	N/A
Daily*	\$43.00	\$65.00 - \$30.00 Valet Fee* <small>(\$30.00 per week)</small>	\$24.00 <small>(\$20.00 for 24 hours)</small>	\$45.00	N/A
Weekly	\$141.00 <small>(\$10.00 per hour after 24 hours)</small>	Book ahead and save	\$150.00 <small>(\$10.00 per day)</small>	N/A	N/A
Distance	5-7 min. by free shuttle Departs every 20 min.	Outside	4 min. by Canada Line Free on Sea Island Departs every 4-20 min.	1-8 min. walk	Less than 5 min. drive
Features	This reservation only, self-parking facility provides the most affordable daily rate. Have an EV? Be sure to request an EV charging spot.	If you require curbside drop-off, you can drop your car off directly at the terminal and have it parked for you with our premium valet parking service.	Save up and from the terminal within 24 hours? Use long-term parking as your best option when leaving your car for the day.	The parkade is located just steps from the terminal, which is ideal when dropping off or picking up travellers.	Avoid leaving the terminal while you wait for your gate to arrive! Wait in this complimentary parking lot as an Amazon Prime member or as a frequent flyer to receive complimentary parking for you. Know how to make the most of it.

yvr.ca/parking

Give a little, save a life via the YVR mobile blood donation clinic

On November 7, more than 100 Sea Island Community and Vancouver Airport Authority members rolled up their sleeves for a good cause: donating blood to people who are in need

of a transfusion.

Canadian Blood Services was on-site at YVR, collecting 86 units of blood. Each unit can provide this lifesaving resource to multiple patients, from those

recovering from surgery to those fighting cancer.

Special thanks are extended to all the first-time and regular donors who participated—your contributions will make a real

difference in the lives of those in need.

If you missed this blood drive but are eager to donate to the next one, scan the QR code on the right.

The Next YVR Blood Donation Clinic will be Held in the

YVR East Concourse, January 29, 2025, from 11am-5:45pm

To book your appointment, visit blood.ca, call 1 888 2 DONATE, or scan the QR Code.



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Did you lose something at YVR? There's help to reunite you with your belongings

Travelling can be stressful, and sometimes, objects get left behind. No one plans to lose an item while travelling, but if anything gets left behind at YVR, there is a Lost and Found team dedicated to helping passengers recover their lost belongings.

Whether you've left behind a favourite hat, trusty laptop, a beloved teddy bear, or even your glasses (it happens more

often than you might think), the YVR Lost and Found team is on a mission to reunite you with your belongings.

How to file a lost item claim

If you've lost something, file a claim on YVR's website. The team will do their best to find your belongings. When you inquire through yvr.ca, remember to provide detailed information—such as brand, model, colour, case description, and unique features (e.g.,

cracks, stickers, foreign language keyboards).

Lost and Found hours of operation:

Open daily: 9am to 5pm.
Location: US Departures, Level 3, across from check-in counter 280.

To inquire about a lost item, visit yvr.ca/en/passengers/navigate-yvr/information-and-assistance/lost-and-found. There is no cost to submit a Lost and Found report to

YVR. Please be aware of fraudulent or phishing websites asking for a fee to find your lost items.

Items left elsewhere

Unfortunately, if you leave something on an airplane, the Canada Line, or in a taxi or rental car, it remains with the respective airline, TransLink, or vehicle hire company.

The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority

(CATSA) handles items confiscated at screening checkpoints. If items have been lost

or damaged, complete a claim form on CATSA's website, catsa-acsta.gc.ca/en/claims.

BY THE NUMBERS

On any given month, the YVR Lost & Found team collects 2,000-4,000 items, including approximately:

- 480 hats
- 470 glasses
- 240 laptops



Aerospace and aviation achievements recognized at BCAC 2024 Silver Wings Awards



Photo 1: Thomas Urbanovitch, recipient of BCAC's 2024 Back and Bevington Air Safety Award. Photos: Brendan McAlpine/BCAC.

Photo 2: Left to right: Dave Frank, executive director BCAC; Reg Faubert, recipient of BCAC's 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award; Cathy Press, CEO/owner Chinook Helicopters.

Photo 3: Castlegar Mayor Maria McFaddin and Maciej Habrych, manager of Castlegar West Kootenay Regional Airport, accept the William Templeton Public Aviation Facility Award.

The 2024 annual Silver Wings Industry and Scholarship Awards Celebration, held on October 18 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, recognized outstanding leadership, promotion and contributions to aviation and aerospace B.C. development.

Lifetime Achievement Award - Reg Faubert received recognition for outstanding leadership, promotion, and consistent contribution to the continuous development of aviation and aerospace in B.C.

Faubert has spent more than three decades advocating for improvements in the aviation and aerospace industry from within the halls of government. He is the western region (B.C. and Territories) manager for the federal government's Initiative for Sustainable Aviation Technology. The \$350-million program will fund projects to help the aviation sector reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Faubert's appointment to the position occurred after he retired from the B.C. Ministry of Transportation in Victoria.

Robert S. Day Outstanding Contribution Trophy - David Gillen, a retired UBC Sauder School of Business professor, received the trophy. Gillen was recognized for his exceptional leadership in promoting and developing aviation in B.C.

Other 2024 Silver Wings Industrial Awards and recipients include:

Aviation Entrepreneur of the Year - Sealand Flight,

Campbell River, B.C., operated by Sealand Aviation, an aircraft maintenance and engineering company specializing in airplane modifications. Sealand Flight received the award for its pioneering leadership in sustainable aviation—in June 2024, the school achieved a historic milestone by completing Canada's first commercial electric flight.

William Templeton Public Aviation Facility Award - Castlegar West Kootenay Regional Airport, awarded for systematically pursuing a precision approach to increase service reliability while investing in facilities and initiatives to accommodate the resulting heightened demand.

BCAC Environmental Award - Kelowna International Airport for providing leadership in sustainability initiatives such as Net Zero by 2030 and sharing lessons learned with the broader airport community. In addition, the BCAC recognized the Kelowna airport for assisting other B.C. airports in pursuing their net-zero goals and launching other environmental protection efforts, such as enhanced waste management.

Back and Bevington Air Safety Award - Thomas Urbanovitch. The operational duty manager at NAV Canada's facility in Surrey, Urbanovitch, among his many roles, manages wildfire impacts on aviation. During the past four and a half years with NAV Canada, he has helped various groups manage hundreds of wildfires in B.C., with many blazes impacting

aviation operations yearly. He manages airspace restrictions during wildfire events and communicates with airlines and

airports. A long-time aviation industry veteran, he coordinates airspace constraints and contingency plans to keep the aviation

system running smoothly.

For more information on the B.C. Aviation Council, visit bcaviationcouncil.org.

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Expansion of AC's Digital Identification program for domestic flights departing YVR

On December 3, Air Canada expanded its Digital Identification program as a boarding option for almost all its domestic flights at YVR.

Following a successful pilot project on select flights, Air Canada and YVR are the first in Canada to invest in the technology and equipment to modernize the Canadian airport travel experience by offering travellers the convenience and security of

digital recognition at the gate to confirm their identities.

"We are thrilled to take a leadership position with the Vancouver Airport Authority in using technology to simplify and transform boarding of almost all our YVR-departing domestic flights," said Tom Stevens, vice president, Canadian airports and customer experience strategy at Air Canada. "Digital identification is readily used to stream-

line numerous daily activities, including unlocking phones and entering workplaces, and bringing this technology to the gate enhances the travel experience, making boarding flights convenient and effortless. The feedback from customers, notably our frequent flyers, during the pilot phase, was very positive. We look forward to expanding this technology to additional airports."



Photo: courtesy Air Canada.

Digital identification is also available for customers to enter Air Canada's Maple Leaf Lounges in Toronto (YYZ), Calgary (YYC), San Francisco (SFO), and the Air Canada Café (YYZ) in Toronto.

Air Canada will also make additional airport boarding gates and touchpoints online.

"Together with Air Canada, we are pleased to introduce digital identification as part of the boarding process for domestic flights at YVR. Digital identification will allow travellers to quickly and securely verify their identity at key airport touchpoints—similar to unlocking a smartphone or securing transactions," said Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO at Vancouver International Airport. "This enhanced process will reduce wait times and provide a more convenient and hassle-free journey."

Why enroll in Air Canada's Digital Identification program?

- New Convenience with Digital ID in the Air Canada app: Building upon the app's top features like real-time

flight updates, baggage tracking, and Aeroplan account access, Digital ID introduces a new level of ease when boarding, making the travel experience more connected and hassle-free.

- Faster Boarding: With Air Canada's Digital ID, there's no need to search for one's phone, boarding pass, or physical ID. Walk up to the camera screen, and your identity is confirmed in seconds, reducing wait times and simplifying the travel experience. Customers utilizing Digital ID will be among the first to board the aircraft and settle in sooner.
- Secure and Seamless: Air Canada's Digital ID technology securely confirms your identity while streamlining the boarding process. Participation is optional and based on consent, giving participants complete control over their data.

Digital identification is also available for customers to enter Air Canada's Maple Leaf Lounges in Toronto (YYZ), Calgary and San Francisco, and the Air Canada Café in Toronto.

Air Canada plans to make

additional airport boarding gates and touchpoints available online in the future.

How to enroll

Enrolling in Air Canada's Digital Identification program is easy and quick and can be completed through the Air Canada app.

For more information and a step-by-step guide on enrolling, visit Air Canada's Digital Identification information page at aircanada.com.

Privacy and security

The Air Canada digital identification system is strictly an optional, consent-based Air Canada program. Customers control when they share biometrics and other personal information with Air Canada. Customers who do not wish to utilize digital identification may board as they currently do by presenting their boarding pass and government-issued photo ID for manual ID check and processing.

Air Canada's digital identification is unrelated to any government-sponsored program such as NEXUS, Global Entry or US CBP Mobile Passport Control (MPC). ✈️



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WestJet & Skip join forces to offer rewards



Two Canadian brands, WestJet Airlines and Skip, are partnering to enhance their companies' overall guest experiences.

Founded in 1994 and headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, WestJet is Canada's second-largest airline. Skip connects millions of customers with more than 50,000 restaurant partners nationwide, including a growing offering of groceries, retailers, alcohol and convenience stores.

The first phase of the partnership introduces exclusive benefits for WestJet Rewards members and Skip customers, bringing more experiences and

rewards from coast to coast.

WestJet Rewards members can soon choose a Skip gift card for a new milestone award within the program. In contrast, Skip's newly launched membership program, Skip+, will give members access to exclusive WestJet travel perks and experiences, offering new ways to benefit from their everyday choices.

WestJet and Skip plan to expand the partnership with additional benefits offered in 2025 and beyond, ensuring continued innovation and value for WestJet Rewards and Skip+ members. ✈️

Air Canada's transborder schedule from YVR for Summer 2025



Air Canada will offer three new transborder routes from its YVR hub in 2025. New routes to Tampa (TPA), Florida; Raleigh (RDU), North Carolina; and Nashville (BNA), Tennessee.

In addition to the new routes, more capacity to Austin, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Miami, Florida, has been added, offering more options for travellers on both sides of the border.

Together with its partner United Airlines, Air Canada will offer up to 7,700 seats on 58 daily non-stop flights to 21 US destinations next summer, representing an 11 per cent increase in seat capacity from the summer of 2024.

All flights are now available for sale at aircanada.com, through Air Canada Contact Centres and via travel agents.

"We are very pleased to see Air Canada's expansive network into the U.S. from

YVR continue to grow, providing travellers with more choice, convenience and flexibility," said Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO at Vancouver International Airport (YVR). "This will be the first time in YVR's history that our community has been directly connected to Raleigh-Durham, which is, like our region, a vibrant research, education and technology hub. These routes also provide travellers from the U.S. with direct access to experience everything our region has to offer, including connections to a range of global destinations from YVR."

Air Canada's transborder flights are timed to allow for easy connections with the airline's international network. Travellers returning to the U.S. can save time on arrival with the convenience of U.S. customs pre-clearance during their connection in Canada. ✈

Star Alliance named World's Leading Airline Alliance



Photo: courtesy Star Alliance.

Star Alliance was named the World's Leading Airline Alliance for the fifth consecutive year at the 2024 World Travel Awards Grand Final Gala Ceremony in Madeira, Portugal.

The World Travel Awards recognizes and celebrates excellence across travel, tourism and hospitality sectors.

Winners are determined based on a worldwide poll involving qualified executives in the travel sector alongside consumer travel buyers.

Established in 1997, the

Star Alliance airline network members are Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Avianca, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, Egyptair, Ethiopian Airlines, Eva Air, Lot Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Shenzhen airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Swiss, Tap Air Portugal, Thai, Turkish Airlines, and United.

See **WORLD'S LEADING AIRLINE ALLIANCE** page 10

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Upcoming Events



Email your event information to jstewart@westerndriver.com

February 25-26, 2025

Manitoba Aviation Conference

The 2025 Manitoba Aviation Conference will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25th and 26th, with additional events before and after the conference. For more information, visit mbaviation.ca

April 28-30, 2025

Northern Air Transport Association

Whitehorse, YT

Program information and registration will be posted at natacanada.org. Contact admin@natacanada.org about attending, exhibiting or sponsorship opportunities.

May 5-7, 2025

Alberta Aviation & Aerospace Council

Best Western Premier Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary, AB

The 2025 event will feature two trade show areas with limited space. The defence showcase displays top technologies and innovations in the defence sector. Aviation and Aerospace corridor, showcasing Alberta businesses. For more information, visit albertasummit.com

May 26-May 28, 2025

British Columbia Aviation Council Spring Conference Kamloops

Courtyard by Marriott, Nanaimo (Conference Hotel)

Book early to avoid disappointment. Some events are limited. In particular, book airfares early. We have several great travel partners; however, airfares are increasing - especially about 15 days ahead of your travel dates. The conference hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Nanaimo, still has limited dates and rooms at \$228 plus taxes per night. If you need assistance with anything, contact Dave Frank directly at dave@bcaviationcouncil.org.

May 29, 2025

Pacific Coastal Airlines 31st Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club, 5460 Number 7 Road, Richmond, BC

Mark your calendars for next year's tournament on Thursday, May 29, 2025! Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a first-time participant, we invite you to join us in celebrating community, enjoying a day of golf, and contributing to worthy causes. Together, we can continue to positively impact and uphold the spirit of generosity that defines Pacific Coastal Airlines and its extended family. Link to 2024's golf tournament: <https://www.pacificcoastal.com/blog/celebrating-a-milestone-pacific-coastal-airlines-30th-annual-memorial-charity-golf-tournament/>

June 10-12, 2025

Canadian Business Aviation Association Annual Convention

Richmond, BC

The convention brings together attendees from diverse roles within the business aviation sector, fostering a comprehensive exchange of industry insights, trends, and innovations. It is a premier platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among key decision-makers and influencers in the business aviation community. More than 700 business aviation leaders are expected to attend, 65+ exhibitors, 15+ aircraft on display. For more information, visit cbaa-aaaa.ca.

November 18-20, 2025

Air Transport Association of Canada

Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, QC

ATAC's Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow is the premier national gathering offering Canada's best networking, learning and sales opportunities for operators, suppliers and government stakeholders involved in commercial aviation and flight training in Canada. Visit atac.ca/conference-2025.

World's Leading Airline Alliance from page 9

In addition to the alliance-level award, several Star Alliance member airlines also claimed individual victories, showcasing the collective strength that Star Alliance brings to travellers worldwide.

Air Canada, a founding member of Star Alliance, was named World's Leading

Airline to North America. The recognition was the latest in a series of global awards the airline received in 2024, which include:

- 2025 Five Star Global Airline Award from the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX)

- 2024 APEX Best in Entertainment Award in North America
- World's Best Business Class Airline Lounge Catering for the Toronto Air Canada Signature Suite (Skytrax)
- Best Cabin Crew in Canada (Skytrax)
- Most Family Friendly

- Airline in North America (Skytrax)
 - Best Premium Economy Class Onboard Catering in North America (Skytrax)
 - Cleanest Airline in North America (Sktrax)
- Overall, the Star Alliance network offers 17,500 daily flights to 189 countries. ➔

Airble partners with Helijet, offering online charter flight deals in North America, the Caribbean and Europe

Richmond, BC-based online charter flight booking service Airble has partnered with Helijet to offer more non-stop travel choices for private charter passengers.

Airble has operated as a digital booking air charter platform since 2019. The company's core ethos is to display accurate aircraft availability, transparent prices, and instant booking.

With decades of experience safely flying more than 2.5 million passengers since it began in 1986, Helijet, based at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), offers scheduled passenger helicopter airline service and fixed-wing charter services.

Helijet added a Cessna Citation X turbojet aircraft to its fleet earlier this year. The Citation is one of the fastest luxury commercial jets



The Citation X is one of the world's fastest commercial jets, capable of flying at altitudes of 50,000 feet. Photo: courtesy Helijet.

available, with a travel range double that of smaller corporate jets, cruising speeds exceeding 700mph (Mach .92) and capable of flying at altitudes of 50,000 ft.

Helijet's Cessna Citation X charter flights booked through the Airble website or mobile app offer non-stop access to numerous North American destinations, including Cabo San Lucas, Toronto, New York, Miami,

Hawaii, plus the Caribbean.

Airble will also arrange flights to European destinations.

In addition to offering private charter deals across B.C., North America, and beyond, Airble will offer empty-leg flight offers when available.

"We are committed to reducing unnecessary emissions by filling seats on aircraft in service, including

numerous private empty leg deals," said Airble CEO Saeed Golzar. There may be up to 50 deals available on airble.com at any given time."

Helijet's Citation X service is also complemented by a six-passenger Learjet aircraft available for charter and connecting passenger helicopter services from downtown Vancouver to downtown Victoria and Nanaimo. ➔

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Porter Airlines turns 18

Porter Airlines is celebrating 18 years of service with a continuation of North American expansion, making it the second-largest airline operating flights to the U.S. and Canada at Toronto Pearson International Airport and the largest airline operating out of Ottawa.

The airline now serves every province in Canada. It is also expanding across the

U.S., with six destinations in Florida and Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and Phoenix.

Service to San Diego and Palm Springs will also start this winter.

Porter emphasizes an overall elevated economy experience on its flights—no middle seats, free beer and wine served in glassware, complimentary pre-

mium snacks, high-quality fresh meal options, and free WiFi on the E195-E2 for all passengers.

Porter recently announced Canadian-owned and operated Moosehead Breweries as its beer partner, with products from the brewery available on all its flights. Moosehead's story begins in 1867, the year of the Canadian Confederation, and it is now the last major Canadian-

Porter Airlines Embraer E195-E2 and De Havilland Dash 8-400 outside Ottawa International Airport (YOW) hangar. (Photo: Business Wire)



owned brewery in the country.

Porter continues to receive accolades and awards across North America:

- USA Today Readers' Choice Awards - Best Economy Class
- Baxter Media - Favourite Airline - Economy Class

Service voted by travel agents

- PAX International - Most Improved Airline in North America
- SkyTrax - Best Regional

Airline North America

For more information, visit flyporter.com or follow @porterairlines on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. ✈️

Hong Kong Airlines relaunching flights to Vancouver

Established in 2006, Hong Kong Airlines celebrated its 18th anniversary on November 28, announcing the resumption of direct flights to Vancouver, starting January 18, 2025.

The twice-weekly services will provide additional travel options for passengers between Hong Kong and Vancouver and those connecting via Hong Kong.

Vancouver was Hong Kong Airlines' first North American

destination, launched in June 2017 and has consistently proven a popular route.

The reinstatement of this service demonstrates the airline's commitment to returning to the international market and its strategic transformation from a regional to a global carrier, focusing on expanding its global route network.

"We are thrilled to welcome Vancouver back as Hong Kong

Airlines' first North American destination," said Mr. Yan Bo, Hong Kong Airlines chairman.

"We aim to attract more travelers to experience Vancouver's beauty, facilitating family reunions and business collaborations. The route will further strengthen our Asian network and offer global passengers more diverse and convenient travel options, connecting Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area,

Hong Kong Airlines operates a fleet of Airbus aircraft. Photo: Airbus.



Oceania, and North America."

Following a successful restructuring last year, Hong Kong Airlines has been actively enhancing its services and expanding its operations, with service now covering more than 30 destinations.

Hong Kong Airlines flight

schedule to Vancouver will depart Hong Kong on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Flights from Vancouver to

Hong Kong will depart YVR on Wednesdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit hongkongairlines.com. ✈️

Christmas magic in the air with British Airways

British Airways is pulling out all the stops to spread cheer and create a truly "British Original Christmas" in 2024, including a bespoke seasonal menu onboard, celebrations across London Heathrow and

Gatwick, and special gifts for customers in all cabins in December.

Customers travelling through the airline's Heathrow and Gatwick lounges can pick up unique gifts at pop-up festive

stalls featuring original British brands, such as individually wrapped chocolates in its Club (Business Class) lounges, and hand-piped baked goods by Biscuiteers in the Concorde Room.

BA's culinary team has created a traditional British turkey dinner featuring all the trimmings and a vegetarian option, available on long-haul flights on selected routes. Photo: courtesy British Airways.



See **BRITISH AIRWAYS CHRISTMAS MAGIC** page 12

Boxing Week SALE



Dec 26 - 31



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Sun: Noon - 5pm

British Airways Christmas Magic from page 11

Travellers visiting the Concorde Room between December 23-25 can enjoy a special premium tittle by sampling Talisker's exclusive limited-edition 45-year-old

Scotch whisky.

A bespoke winter picnic menu will also be available in all British Airways Heathrow lounges, including mince pies, brie and cranberry

sandwiches, and a specially crafted Christmas cocktail for those looking to enjoy festive fare.

Santa's helpers will offer to wrap last-minute gifts for

customers with specially designed snowflake wrapping paper incorporating the airline's iconic speed marquee in the airline's First lounge.

Further festive touches

onboard include specially designed headrest covers and a dedicated Christmas inflight entertainment channel.

The airline's culinary team has also created a

traditional British turkey dinner featuring all the trimmings, alongside a vegetarian option, available to enjoy on long-haul flights on selected routes. 

Aircraft and their collective nouns

The English language boasts a host of collective nouns—terms used to refer to groups of people, animals or things. Some well-known examples are a “pride” of lions, a “pack” of wolves, a “swarm” of bees, and some lesser used ones: A “scurry” of squirrels, a “parliament” of owls, a “murder” of crows.

For aviation buffs, the world of collective nouns for aircraft is fascinating, brimming with diversity and unique terms. Following are some examples.

Armada: a term with a rich historical significance commonly used to refer to a large fleet of warships or trucks. It is also employed to denote a large group of aircraft, connecting us to the aviation heritage.

Fleet: This originates from its use in maritime contexts, referring to a group of ships under a single command. In aviation, it conjures an image of a group of planes belonging to a specific airline or organization. For example, Air Canada has a fleet of aircraft ranging from Boeing



The iconic Canadian Snowbirds soar in formation at the Abbotsford Airshow. Photo: Flytedeck.

to Airbus variants.


Flight: a term that usually refers to a single aircraft in operation, showcases the adaptability of aviation language as “flight” can also be used collectively to describe a group of airplanes travelling together or as a unit, often seen in commercial flights carrying passengers.

Formation: Refers to a group of planes flying together in a particular arrangement or pattern. This collective noun also describes military aircraft flying in synchronized formations during air shows or exercises.

Squadron: This collective term originates from military aviation and refers to a specific

division or unit of aircraft, especially within the Air Force. A squadron can comprise several different types of planes with a particular purpose or mission.

Wing: A wing of airplanes is a term borrowed from the structure of birds and bats, highlighting a group of planes associated with a particular unit. It suggests collaborative operations and support among the aircraft connected within a wing.

Email us if you have additions to this list, and you could win a \$50 gift certificate to the Flying Beaver. Email: joanbelgrave@hotmail.com with the subject line: “Aviation Collective Nouns.” 

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New U.K. eTA requirements for Canadian citizens

Starting January 8, 2025, Canadian and U.S. citizens who were previously able to travel to the U.K. with just a valid passport will need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to travel to or through the United Kingdom.

The eTA does not apply to those with a U.K. visa or a British or Irish passport.


Travellers using an eTA are permitted in the U.K. for up to six months for:

- Tourism
 - visiting family and friends
 - business
 - short-term study
- For up to three months:**
- on the Creative Worker visa concession
 - for a permitted paid engagement or
 - for transiting through the U.K.



For any other purpose, travellers should consult an immigration attorney to determine whether a visa is required.

Travellers can apply for the ETA online at apply-for-an-eta.homeoffice.gov.uk/how-to-apply or by downloading the UK ETA App.

The application costs 10 GBP (approximately 18 CAD) and typically takes three working days to be approved. Once approved, the eTA is valid for two years. 

Afternoon Tea: A Victorian England tradition with worldwide appeal



Afternoon Tea at Fairmont Empress, Victoria, BC. Photo: courtesy Fairmont Empress.

A prestigious collection of more than 300 authentic historic hotels in more than 40 countries has announced the 2024 Top 25 Historic Hotels Worldwide Afternoon Tea Experiences list.

The hotels selected for recognition offer heritage and cultural travellers a chance to immerse themselves in a revered tradition from Victorian England: Afternoon Tea.

While the custom of tea ceremonies dates back millennia around the world, the tradition of Afternoon Tea—a light meal served in the mid-afternoon with tea or sparkling wine—is

traced to the English aristocrat Anna Russell, the 7th Duchess of Bedford and Queen Victoria's Lady of the Bedchamber.

Her household served dinner fashionably late, around 8pm, but the Duchess did not want to wait so long between luncheon and supper. Being regularly hungry at 3 or 4pm, she instituted a new meal in the early 1840s.

The influential Duchess of Bedford became a trendsetter when her "Afternoon Tea" became popular among British women of means during the late-19th and early-20th centuries, a time when social and

cultural mores were rapidly changing for many women. Pursuing activities away from home became socially acceptable, even fashionable, and Afternoon Tea became increasingly popular.

Many historic hotels selected for this list are in

the British Isles. Still, other luxurious historic hotels with Afternoon Tea experiences are available in Canada, China, Norway, Singapore, Cambodia, Australia, the Netherlands, and beyond.

A perfect fit for historic hotels, the tradition of Afternoon Tea symbolizes hospitality, tradition, indulgence, and community. Several Afternoon Teas selected for this list serve guests tea with a twist, making literature, regional cuisine, art, and dancing part of the dining experience.

The 25 hotels selected offer visitors opportunities to discover the history of tea, indulge in Afternoon Tea, and experience the romance of meticulously restored historical settings, including elegant castles, refined manor homes, and luxury hotels.

Dromoland Castle (1014)

Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare, Ireland

Castlemartyr Resort (1210) *Cork, County Cork, Ireland*

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam

(1578) *Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Sopwell House (1603) *St Albans, England, United Kingdom*

Carton House Hotel, A Fairmont Managed Hotel (1739)

Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland

The K Club (1832) *Straffan, County Kildare, Ireland*

Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa (1852)

St Andrews, Scotland, United Kingdom

Britannia Hotel (1870) *Trondheim, Norway*

The Fullerton Hotel Sydney (1874) *Sydney, Australia*

Grand Hotel Huis ter Duin (1885) *Noordwijk aan Zee, Netherlands*

The Savoy London (1889) *London, England, United Kingdom*

The Landmark London (1899) *London, England, United Kingdom*

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi (1901) *Hanoi, Vietnam*

The Caledonian Edinburgh (1903)

Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Omni King Edward (1903) *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

The Grand York (1906) *York, England, United Kingdom*

Fairmont Empress (1908) *Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*

The Waldorf Hilton, London (1908)

London, England, United Kingdom

See AFTERNOON TEA page 14

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Afternoon Tea from page 13

Rosewood London (1914) *London, England, United Kingdom*
The Fullerton Hotel Singapore (1924) *Singapore*
Fairmont Peace Hotel (1929) *Shanghai, China*
Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor (1932) *Siem Reap, Cambodia*
The Phoenicia Malta (1936) *Floriana, Malta*
Lysebu (1946) *Oslo, Norway*
The Murray Hong Kong (1969) *Hong Kong, China*

Fairmont Empress has been home to Victoria, British Columbia's grandest traditional Afternoon Tea experience since 1908. The experience occurs in the reimagined Lobby Lounge,

where guests sip tea surrounded by history, two fireplaces, and a view of Victoria's picturesque Inner Harbour.

Inducted into Historic Hotels Worldwide in 2017 and

designated as a National Historic Site of Canada, the Fairmont Empress has welcomed celebrities in politics, entertainment, and royalty. King Edward VIII, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and Prince Philip stayed at this luxury hotel.

For its splendid Afternoon Tea, the culinary team at Fairmont Empress creates decadent pastries and sandwiches that celebrate the history and character of the hotel,

presented with a flourish on a tiered fine-china tea service, commissioned soon after the hotel opened in 1908.

Fairmont hotels serve LoT 35 teas, a collection of sustainably farmed and ethically sourced whole-leaf teas. Additionally, the Empress blend is a selection of seasonal, quality teas created exclusively for the Fairmont Empress by The Metropolitan Tea Company, containing elements of different tea varieties, including assam

(thick, malty, and full-bodied), Kenya (floral-like, with a golden coppery infusion), South India (superb, fruity, and sprightly), Ceylon (airy, almost piquant), and China (burgundy depth with light, oaky notes). Guests can upgrade their Afternoon Tea with a glass of Veuve Clicquot champagne.

The Fairmont Empress offers a Festive Afternoon Tea during December and a Prince and Princess Afternoon Tea for children ages 5-12.

Fairmont Vancouver Airport Afternoon Tea served Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1pm - 3:30pm (Last Seating)

Savour a seasonal menu of savoury tea sandwiches, fresh scones with fruit preserves and cream, seasonal sweets, and premium Lot35 teas. Younger guests will enjoy our Junior Afternoon Tea, which includes favourites like PB&J sandwiches and berry jello. ✈️

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Summit Customs Brokers Partners with Wishes Without Borders to Fight Childhood Cancer




Wishes Without Borders is a non-profit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children battling cancer. Executive director Gary Eng and the organization's numerous volunteers work tirelessly to raise awareness about childhood cancer and support families navigating this challenging journey.


To bring awareness to the cause, Summit Custom Brokers and its staff have fundraised, volunteered, and engaged in events and campaigns to continue the shared vision of making an enduring difference in children battling cancer.

Contributions have enabled Wishes Without Borders to make significant strides in research, treatment, and support services for children and families affected by this life-altering disease, bringing hope and

comfort to countless young patients and offering them a chance at a brighter future.

Please visit wisheswithoutborders.com or their Facebook page for further information on how you can support their cause.





Exercise Bold Response – 2024

Canada's Air Cargo Security Program
Invitation to Program Members at YVR

Regulated Agents, Certified Agents, and Know Consignors are invited to participate in our inaugural tabletop exercise at YVR.


Benefits of Our Training
 Meets Transport Canada's mandatory training requirements. Your company's participation will be recognized as meeting its regulatory responsibility to conduct an annual training exercise.


What You Will Receive
 Participating companies will each receive:

- **An Exercise Booklet** – highlighting the exercise format and scenarios.
- **A Post Exercise Report** – highlighting your participation and lessons learned.
- **A Record of Employee Training** – each attendee receives documentation attesting to the security incident response training received.

Registration or to Learn More Information
 Call or email us at: 778-870-1920 or haggerty.associates@gmail.com

About Us
 We have been operating since 2015 as a boutique consulting entity exclusively focused on Transport Canada's Air Cargo Security Program. We provide our services across Canada. Our exercise designer and facilitator is a former Transport Canada Emergency Preparedness Coordinator - Pacific Region. He is also a former Transport Canada Air Cargo Security Inspector.





LIMIT YOUR #RISK OF EXPOSURE TO #COVID19 WITH THE ArriveCAN APP.

IT WILL REDUCE YOUR WAIT TIME AND PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH OTHERS AT THE BORDER.

Download the ArriveCAN app on your Apple and Android mobile devices

The **ArriveCAN** mobile application, developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), provides a digital way for travellers entering Canada to provide their basic traveller information quickly, easily and securely within 48 hours before arriving in Canada.


Use this mobile app to speed up your arrival process in Canada and spend less time with border and public health officers.

The app helps you to:

- provide mandatory information that is required for entry into Canada
- avoid lineups and reduce points of contact at the border
- provide updates on your quarantine compliance and the development of any symptoms during the 14 days after arriving in Canada

The ArriveCAN app is available for free on Google Play and Apple App stores.

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