

MEDIA FACT SHEET

SASKATCHEWAN HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION'S COMMUNITY AIRPORT PARTNERSHIP (CAP) PROGRAM

What is it?

- The Community Airport Partnership (CAP) program is a new initiative of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation. The program's goal is to provide eligible airports with stable, long-term financial assistance to improve infrastructure.
- The Community Airport Partnership program is under the Regional Shortline Railways and Airports pillar of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation new long-term strategy called Transportation for Economic Advantage. This strategy is a 10-year, \$5-billion commitment to fundamentally realign the province's transportation network to meet the current and future demands of Saskatchewan's thriving and robust economy.

Why is the aviation sector important to Saskatchewan?

- From community regional airports to larger ones like Saskatoon and Regina, the aviation sector links businesses and tourism quickly with provincial, national and international markets and clients, which helps grow and sustain Saskatchewan's already robust economy.
- Airports also serve an important social role, such as being a base of operations for policing and air ambulances.

Why is this program needed?

- Some Saskatchewan airports have infrastructure nearing the end of its life span and needs to be upgraded as a proactive measure. Although many of these airports are essential for air ambulances, RCMP aircraft and businesses, air traffic is too low at some of these airports to generate adequate revenue for them to undertake major infrastructure improvements. The Community Airport Partnership program is designed to help offset the cost of these improvements.
- Only airports that receive scheduled service are eligible for existing federal funding.

What kinds of projects are eligible for provincial funding?

- The current priority will be given to safety-related improvements, such as upgrades to runways, taxiways, along with lighting and navigational aid systems.

How will projects be selected?

A four-member committee will review the applications. Members will be:

1. The Saskatchewan Aviation Council, which represents all of the province's airports.
2. A technical expert from the Regina Airport Authority.
3. A technical expert from the Saskatoon Airport Authority.
4. An official from Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation.

How does the funding work?

- For the 2007-08 fiscal year, \$500,000 has been earmarked for this program. Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation will fund half of an eligible and approved project to a maximum of \$200,000.

Who can apply for the program?

- Regionally-focused municipal or community-owned airports not eligible for airport assistance under the federal government's Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) may apply.
- Applicants must be willing to fund half of the proposed project on an equal, cost-shared basis.
- Eligible airports must support economic development, general access to surrounding communities, air ambulance services, commercial operations and safety.
- Provincially-owned airports aren't eligible for funding.

When is the deadline for applications?

- Eligible airports are urged to apply as soon as possible.