



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT TO RESULT IN MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT KELOWNA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

After guiding the growth and development of Kelowna International Airport for 28 years, Roger Sellick has announced that he will be retiring on October 31st, 2008. Roger will be stepping down as Airport General Manager effective immediately and over the next eight months will focus on air service development initiatives.

"Non-stop air service is a key to economic development," Sellick says. "This is particularly important for tourism destinations like the Okanagan Valley. With the runway extension coming on line later this year we need to be ready. This means focusing on the expansion of YLW's reach to the U.K. and Europe. We are competing with other airports in the province for intercontinental air service; timing in the marketplace is critical," he adds.

"The last few years have been extremely busy and satisfying," notes Sellick. "Our \$36 million 2010 Development Program is well underway which includes terminal and parking lot expansions, two new aircraft loading bridges and construction of the runway extension, which begins later this month. The 2025 Master Plan has also been completed which outlines a sound phased approach to accommodate the airport's growth and land use needs for the future. This is a good time for a change and for new ideas."

Sellick will assist in the transition period while the search for a new Airport General Manager is underway. In the meantime Sam Samaddar, formerly Assistant General Manager, Airport Development, has been appointed interim Airport General Manager. Samaddar will oversee day to day operations at Kelowna International during the transition period.

"Roger Sellick has presided over unprecedented growth at Kelowna International Airport," says Ron Mattiussi, City Manager. "When he took the helm in 1980 passenger volume averaged 410,000 annually. Under Roger's stewardship, and due in large part to his unbridled enthusiasm and dedication, Kelowna is now consistently ranked as one of the top ten busiest airports in the country. Last year over 1.3 million passengers flowed through the terminal doors."

In 1980 Kelowna Airport offered non-stop scheduled service to Vancouver and Calgary. Today the airport offers over 30 departures per day with non-stop service to Calgary, Edmonton, Las Vegas, Prince George, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria on five air carriers; Air Canada, AC Jazz, Central Mountain Air, Horizon Air and WestJet. Seasonal charter service is also offered to Los Cabos, Cancun and Puerto Vallarta.

Kelowna International is responsible for generating an estimated \$310 million of annual economic activity and sustaining 1,835 full-time jobs.

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