

Conclusion

Today's commercial pilot is required to possess spe

curriculum for the proposed program. This allows for less start-up time, as curriculum is already developed and need only be altered for northern routes and geography.

- The local flight school is well established within the region and currently holds all Transport Canada-required certificates. This allows for the College to contract to the local flight school for aviation courses and training to remain eligible for student loans.
- The College of New Caledonia is well established within the region, is well equipped to offer administrative, marketing, and student support services, and possesses sufficient classroom space for the proposed program. This allows for the start-up of the proposed program even while airport infrastructure planning is explored by the District of Vanderhoof.
- The Vanderhoof Airport possesses a strong history of flight in the region, uncongested air space ideal for flight-training, some tourism-related aircraft activity, and some local pilot traffic. This allows student pilots who fly in the proposed program to have a sense of pride in where they are training, access to uncomplicated flight patterns, and awareness of air traffic that is present, but not overwhelming.
- The District of Vanderhoof has installed a new lighting system at the Vanderhoof Airport and will add a navigation and an automated weather observing system (AWOS) in the near future. This will allow student pilots to have access to 24-hour flight and real-time weather data by the May 2011 proposed program start date.
- The Omineca Medical Clinic, located across the street from the College, which can

Tuition costs to students for the proposed program can be considered offset by the cost of living savings they will realize from living in Vanderhoof vs. elsewhere because of regional lifestyle differences and the proximity of training facilities.

Employment opportunities created by the operation of the proposed program in the north and the potential of economic diversification with associated activities will further opportunities among funding groups looking for resources to support the proposed program. The College will seek funds from government and non-government sources for eligible projects to further regional economic diversification. In addition, the College will seek funding from government to aid in costs associated with running the proposed program in the north.

B. Community Outcomes

The proposed program will have direct and indirect benefits to the community of Vanderhoof and the surrounding region.

Direct Benefits

Direct full-time employment created by the proposed program at the College of New Caledonia, the local flight school, and the Vanderhoof Airport include:

- Instructional staff,
- Support/administrative staff,
- Aircraft maintenance engineers,
- Aircraft equipment and repair operators, and
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- The potential of the proposed program's students job shadowing with regional aviation operators in an effort to log more time and increase their networking potential,
- The potential to attract international students to the program and increase international exposure leading to more tourism, and
- The potential to re-establish the Vanderhoof Air Show.

Indirect benefits

The District of Vanderhoof has a strong history of aviation in the north and international recognition from its former air show. The proposed program will help to reinvigorate the cultural importance of this history, and thus serve as a catalytic force in shaping the competitive position of the local economy, and help determine its future viability. Changes in local revenues and expenditures generated or associated with this cultural importance will be due to:

- The increased awareness of aviation across the north by local residents,
- The increased awareness of Vanderhoof within the Northern Pilot Network and how it is perceived throughout northwest Canada,
- The increased air traffic at the Vanderhoof Airport and generation of interest through the visibility of the program,
- The increased numbers of visitors attracted to the area, and
- The enhanced number of professionals attracted to and remaining in the area.

C. Next Steps

Following the approval of this study by the Steering Advisory Committee, the next steps in bringing the proposed program to fruition will be to:

- Develop a work plan,
- Seek funding for and acquire a flight training device/simulator,
- Form a technical advisory group to assist in the detail planning of the program,
- Work hand-in-hand with the District of Vanderhoof's airport development planning to synchronize efforts and realize the most benefits at the airport for the community and surrounding area, and
- Start marketing the program via local news outlets, the College website, the Local Flight School website, partnering websites, and through student counselors/advisors at the regional school districts and the Northern Pilot Network.

The proposed program will start commercial pilots on a positive path by teaching skills useful in the aviation industry and transferable to other aspects of a pilot's life journey. The results of this study demonstrate a viable educational program opportunity with a proposed two-year commercial pilot diploma program at the College of New Caledonia-Vanderhoof campus. The College and its partners are committed to proceeding with this program in time for a May 2011 start date. The need for the proposed program is clear and supported by the community.