

# Kaslo Airport Sustainable Strategic Plan



## Executive Summary

In the spring of 2013, a group of business and aviation consultants formed the Kaslo Airport Project Advisory Group (KAPAG). This group, in preparation towards obtaining support from the Village of Kaslo, produced this strategic plan for management and development of the Village's airport (the Airport). The key purpose of this plan is to investigate ways in which the Airport can become a catalyst for regional economic development. The long term intent is to create a regional aviation & technology business, with the result that the Airport's place as a community-based facility will be of value to the community as well as pilots and aircraft owners/operators.

Subsequently, after meeting with the Village of Kaslo, the Advisory Group re-formed as the Kaslo Community Airport Management Corporation (KCAMC), an Incorporated entity to develop a Sustainable Strategic Plan & Business Plan which represents the interests of all community stakeholders in any future proposed for the Airport; in other words, direction as to the nature and extent of services and facilities that should be part of the Kaslo Airport.

KCAMC is responsible for analyzing input from all area constituents and providing recommendations for direction and priorities to the Village of Kaslo, with the resulting recommendations, directions, and priorities become the components of the Kaslo Airport Management Plan.

This future is articulated in the mission and vision statements developed by the KCAMC, based on the premise that there would not be any significant tax burden, specifically that the resource would develop tax revenue to the Village of Kaslo as a result of Airport Development:

**Mission Statement:** *In consultation with the Village of Kaslo and local residents is to build upon the Airport asset to become the prime economic generator for the Village and community area.*

Specifically to develop the airport as a preferred destination for aviation clientele, to add increased employment opportunities within the community, and to create business opportunities for the community, even to the extent of establishing a technology oriented business park.

While the primary focus is on aviation and technology, the airport would also enhance business retention and expansion in the areas of adventure tourism, value added wood products manufacturing and other commercial businesses.

**Vision Statement:** *The vision is for the Village of Kaslo Airport is to become the premier regional airfield for the Central Kootenays, to provide excellence in services and facilities available to air travelers and aircraft operators, to become an effective partner with the Village's residents and businesses.*

Achieving the Airport's vision will be accomplished through the following 6 goals:

1. Develop and operate the Airport with minimum reliance on municipal funding.
2. Acknowledge and give consideration for legacies created by people and organizations that helped create and maintain the Airport present status.
3. Preserve and support, as best possible given Federal and Regional regulations, investments made by local organizations currently accommodated on and around the airport site.
4. Develop the Airport to continue accommodating a variety of functions that encourage site use by pilots, passengers and local businesses.
5. Operate the Airport as a business involving all stakeholders in the decision-making processes, around the yearly operating plan.

6. Allow the Airport to evolve in a manner that is respectful of all Area residents, and especially those living close to the Airport.

In order for the Airport to achieve these goals and be able to support the full, proposed role and scope of services, it has been determined that the following Immediate and Longer Term improvements and enhancements require action and ongoing expansion.

**Immediately (and ongoing):**

Based on the proximity of Kaslo to the International Airways, Kaslo is an alternate emergency airport.

- Attend to the Safety Issues
  - Sweeping the runway,
  - grading both sides of runway,
  - painting markings on runway,
  - add windsocks on frangible poles
  - Provide snow removal capability of the Airport Apron to support medevac rotary wing emergency services.

Once these immediate improvement and enhancements have been completed, the following Schedule for future improvement are suggested:

**Phase 1 - 2**

- Provide a Marketing Campaign for Aviation and Industrial related businesses through the development of a Website
- Provide Security fencing for the Apron Area.
- Provide paved turn-around and run-up areas at each end of the airport
- Obtain a temporary Terminal Trailer with washrooms and pilot planning lounge with an automated Weather Reporting System (AWOS)
- Obtain card lock fuel storage and delivery system

**Phase 2 - 3**

- Provide additional T-hangars on the South side of the existing Apron area and a paved access around these new hangars
- Economic Development strategy for the Airport and adjacent industrial lands

### Phase 3 and forward

- An expanded runway with a fully integrated Taxiway system.
- More Hanger facilities in support of general aviation.
- Industrial Hangars supporting Aviation related business, as well as for regional forest fire response and air ambulance services.
- A better Terminal supporting a variety of functions.
- An airport management structure with clearly defined and assigned responsibilities for day to day operations and future development.

An Airport Management Structure and marketing/promotion campaigns are operational components of the overall plan and need to be implemented early to ensure the Airport's success.