



VANCOUVER AIRPORT AUTHORITY (YVRAA)

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (ANMC)
Thursday, 30 November 2023, 1300H – 1500H Online (Microsoft Teams)

In Attendance:

Chair:	Wendy Avis	Director, Climate and Environment – YVRAA
Secretariat:	Lionel Leong	Environmental Analyst – YVRAA
Participants:	Alex Konowalchuk Howard Jampolsky Kevin Eng Tracy Adole Lesley Fordham Ron Sorensen Hugh Campbell Terry Hiebert Mary Point Morgan Guerin Brenden McBain Dave Schneider Mark Cheng Benjamin Schulz	Citizen Representative – City of Delta Citizen Representative – City of Richmond Staff Representative – City of Richmond Citizen Representative – City of Vancouver Staff Representative – City of Vancouver Citizen Representative – City of Surrey Staff Representative – City of Surrey Float Plane Operators Association Director, Indigenous Relations – YVRAA Manager, Indigenous Relations – YVRAA Manager, Climate & Environment – YVRAA Manager, Regulatory Compliance – YVRAA Supervisor, Noise Abatement & Air Quality – YVRAA Climate and Environment Co-Op – YVRAA
Guest:	Ian Giesbrecht	Manager, Stakeholder & Community Engagement – NAV CANADA

1.0 WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Wendy welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Musqueam Nation on which YVR operates. The following guest and new members were introduced:

- Ian Giesbrecht, Manager of Stakeholder and Community Engagement, NAV CANADA, guest speaker to provide an update on the Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project (VAMP).

- Morgan Guerin has recently joined YVRAA as Manager, Indigenous Relations. Morgan previously attended committee meetings as a staff representative for the Musqueam Indian Band.
- Brenden McBain joins the committee as a new manager in YVRAA's Climate & Environment department, responsible for the noise management portfolio.

2.0 AIRPORT UPDATES

- **Summer Passenger Volumes:**

Over the summer period, YVR accommodated 7.1 M passengers – almost 78k passengers per day. This number is higher than in the same period of 2022 and is on par with the same period in 2019 [pre-pandemic].

- **Winter Operations:**

The YVR After Action Review, which reviewed the travel disruption experienced in December 2022 at YVR, included several action items to better support passengers during the upcoming winter season.

During snowfall events, the community may experience irregular runway operations due to snow clearing activities, which include rotating closures of the South and North Runways to allow crews to remove snow. During these rotating closures, residents may experience departures from the North Runway during the day, or use of the North Runway at night, which is atypical of “normal” airport operations.

- **Native Education College:**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between YVRAA and Native Education College (NEC). This marks a significant step in fostering understanding, empowerment, and reconciliation through collaborative efforts such as scholarships, joint programs, and ongoing commitment to raise awareness about the importance of NEC's transformation into a public institution.

- **Environmental Initiatives and Awards:**

YVRAA has received \$5.7M in funding through the CleanBC Communities Fund to support initiatives in our road map to Net Zero 2030. This funding will enable the replacement of natural gas heaters with air source heat pumps, reducing the carbon emissions by approximately 8% annually.

YVRAA was recognized for our leadership by the BC Aviation Council through the Sustainability Award for our Net Zero 2030 plan and was also recognized by the Governance Professionals of Canada for Best Practice in Environmental Social and Governance.

3.0 NAV CANADA – VANCOUVER AIRSPACE MODERNIZATION PROJECT (VAMP) UPDATE

Ian advised that following the robust public consultation undertaken in late 2022 and early 2023, NAV CANADA continues to review and evaluate the valuable feedback provided by communities regarding the proposed airspace changes around Metro Vancouver and Southern Vancouver Island. In addition, NAV CANADA is working closely with Transport Canada on various aspects of the proposed airspace design.

Once all this work is complete, a consultation report will be issued and would include next steps and timelines for implementation. It is hopeful that a first phase of implementation would occur at the end of 2024, but is subject to progress on ongoing work.

While some residents have incorrectly associated current ongoing aircraft operations over their area with VAMP and have claimed that the new procedures were secretly implemented. Ian confirmed and reiterated that no changes have been implemented to date.

Specifically, a resident of Coquitlam submitted a letter to the Tri-Cities News, which resulted in several other residents contacting YVRAA and who alluded to changes to flight paths over the Tri-Cities area. NAV CANADA, with support from YVRAA, provided a response letter that was subsequently posted in Tri-Cities News (<https://www.tricitynews.com/local-news/letter-air-transportation-plays-a-vital-role-in-our-economy-writes-nav-canada-7845915>). The response letter confirmed that no changes have been made yet and provided correct information about the project.

4.0 SOUTH AIRFIELD REHABILITATION PROJECT

Lionel advised that the end date of the South Airfield Rehabilitation Project has been extended from early November to mid-December. To advise the community of the extension, once the extension was confirmed, YVRAA updated information on its website and distributed information to residents who had previously contacted us about the project.

As mentioned in a previous meeting, this project is a major undertaking and requires closure of the South Runway and several taxiways to allow crews access to the work areas. This has resulted in atypical use of the North Runway during various times of the day, resulting in a change and increased noise exposure for communities located under the flight path of the North Runway and in areas to the north of the airport.

5.0 BILL C-52

The committee was provided an update on the proposed Bill C-52, which was discussed at the Q3 ANMC.

The proposed Bill is currently in second reading. Once the Bill is adopted at second reading, it is referred to Committee for further scrutiny. The proposed Bill affects a wide range of airport activities, with some of the elements related to environment and noise, and specifically around the role and functions of noise committees with regards to addressing noise concerns and the public communication of airspace changes.

The role of the Committee is to review, discuss, and amend the Bill if required. The Committee may invite witnesses to present information or answer questions to assist in their work.

Further updates will be provided to the ANMC as the proposed Bill progresses through the parliamentary process.

Ron asked what happens to a proposed Bill if an election is called. Mark replied that work stops on all proposed Bills when an election is called. It would then be the prerogative of the new Government to resume work on the proposed Bills based on their priorities.

6.0 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ANMC TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

The last major change to the TOR occurred in 2009, and minor amendments were made in 2020. A recent review of the TOR was undertaken with the objective of improving grammar and enhancing clarification of the duties of the ANMC.

A draft of the proposed revised TOR was distributed before the meeting together with a black line version. Changes in the draft were discussed and Committee members were invited to review the document and provide comments by 15 December 2023. The TOR will then undergo further review by YVRAA before it is finalized.

Howard asked if there are any provisions, between regular meetings, for ANMC members to be notified about issues or events that may have an impact on community noise. Mark advised that a notification process would be put into place.

7.0 NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMP)

As background, the NMP serves to document elements of the YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Program and identifies areas of focus with initiatives that will be undertaken. The areas of focus and initiatives in the NMP are identified with the support of ANMC members and through input received from the community.

The current plan covers the period 2019 – 2023. YVRAA will work on the next iteration of the NMP in 2024, with the intent of aligning the NMP with other corporate plans at YVR, specifically the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The current NMP identifies the following twelve areas of focus:

Community Awareness	Industry Awareness	Night-Time Operations
ANMC	Noise Monitoring & Flight Tracking	Temporary Noise Monitoring
Engine Run-ups	Performance-Based Navigation Procedures and Flight Path Changes	Noise Abatement Procedures
Capacity Management	YVR Float Plane Operations	Land Use Planning

The following are examples of work in these areas:

- Community Awareness:**
Noise management information on the YVR website was updated and some of our written materials were converted to video.
- Industry Awareness:**
YVRAA chairs and facilitates meetings of the Canadian Airports Council (CAC) Noise Working Group. This group comprises members from airports across Canada and allows for the exchange of information and coordination on national noise issues. YVRAA also participates in working groups of the International Civil Aviation Organization – Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (ICAO/CAEP).
- Noise Monitoring & Flight Tracking:**
A major capital project was completed to expand and upgrade the hardware of the Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT) network. This work included replacing all the field hardware with newer equipment, adding two NMTs in Delta, and converting a temporary site to a permanent site at the Musqueam Community Center.
- Performance-Based Navigation Procedures and Flight Path Changes:**
YVRAA worked with NAV CANADA to support their efforts on VAMP, which will include the introduction of Required Navigation Performance (RNP) procedures, a type of performance-based navigation that allows aircraft to fly an accurate path between two defined points in 3-D space.
- ANMC:**
YVRAA creates customized community reports for ANMC members to help citizen and staff representatives better understand the issues and concerns from their respective communities.

To support the creation of the new NMP, ANMC members were requested to think about new areas of focus or proposed actions. A questionnaire will be circulated in mid-January 2024 to help capture ideas. YVRAA staff will also make themselves available to discuss ideas. Input received will be reviewed at the ANMC Q1 2024 meeting.

YVRAA will also review historical noise concerns for trends and information to help identify areas of focus and gather insight.

8.0 NOISE CONCERNS – YTD STATISTICS

For the period between 1 January and 15 November 2023, YVRAA received 1,802 concerns from 501 individuals. This is a 113% decrease in the number of concerns, but a 318% increase in the number of individuals compared to the same period in 2022.

The increase in the number of individuals registering concerns in 2023 is mainly attributed to atypical runway use associated with the South Airfield Rehabilitation Project, with many of these concerns coming from areas under the flight path for the North Runway and from communities located to the north of the airport.

From 1 January to 15 November, 89 concerns from 88 residents of the Tri-Cities were attributing perceived changes in flight paths to the implementation of VAMP. 52 of these concerns were received in November as a result of the letter referenced in Ian's update earlier this meeting. No changes associated to VAMP have been implemented, and aircraft currently operating over the Tri-Cities are using long-established flight corridors and procedures that have not changed.

Per a request from Howard, the number of aircraft movements will also be included in future reports.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

The proposed meeting dates for 2024 are: March 14, September 19, and December 5.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Wendy thanked the attendees for their time and adjourned the meeting at 1406H.

Next Regular ANMC Meeting: March 14, 2024