

January 26, 2026

Re: Resolution # 2025 - Call on Province of Ontario to Establish an Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP)

On January 12, 2026, Council of the Town of Fort Frances passed the following into resolution:

Whereas the Fort Frances Municipal Airport serves the Town of Fort Frances, the District of Rainy River, and the First Nation communities of the Southern Treaty #3 region; and

Whereas the Fort Frances Municipal Airport plays a vital role in supporting medevac flights, wildfire response operations, business travel, tourism, and the movement of essential goods for the entire region; and

Whereas the termination of scheduled passenger air service in May, 2024 resulted in the loss of eligibility to funding through the federal Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP); and

Whereas other provinces, including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, have recognized the importance of regional airports by establishing dedicated provincial funding programs, and Ontario currently does not; and

Whereas maintaining aging airport infrastructure has become increasingly difficult without predictable provincial support; and

Whereas regional airports serve broader provincial and regional interests, and municipalities cannot shoulder the financial burden alone.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Fort Frances hereby calls upon the Province of Ontario to:

- 1. Establish an Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) to provide dedicated annual funding for small and regional airports; and*
- 2. Ensure eligibility for a broad range of capital projects, including safety upgrades,*

equipment replacement, and runway maintenance; and

3. Engage municipalities in program design, ensuring local needs and realities are reflected in funding criteria; and

4. Recognize the essential role of airports in medevac and emergency services, especially in remote and northern communities.

Moved by Michael Behan, Seconded by Steven Maki, Carried.

For more information about this resolution, please contact the Office of the Clerk

Chelsea Greig, Municipal Clerk | cgreig@fortfrances.ca

Ally Lewis, Communications Coordinator & Deputy Clerk | alewis@fortfrances.ca