FACT SHEET
Vancouver International Airport Snow Preparedness

- Maintaining a safe and secure airfield for aircraft and passengers is the focus of everything we do at Vancouver International Airport, including Vancouver Airport Authority's snow response program.

- Airport Authority staff begin preparations for each winter season in late summer by reviewing and revising plans, preparing specialized equipment, ordering supplies and briefing staff and contractors. These preparations culminate in full training exercises on the airport's runways and taxiways.

- Throughout the winter, Airport Authority staff monitor the weather closely and have direct 24/7 access to meteorologists who focus specifically on weather and snow forecasting for the airport.

- During a major snow storm, YVR will use up to 80 pieces of snow-removal equipment to keep runways, taxiways and aprons safe for aircraft and passengers.

- YVR's snow-response fleet can clear the equivalent of Granville Street, full width and full length, from the Fraser River to Burrard Inlet, in less than 15 minutes.

- The Airport Authority's runway and taxiway snow removal fleet includes the following specialized equipment:

    - Five OshKosh H-Series snow blowers, which have a combined capacity to blow 20,000 tons of snow every hour as far as 150 feet off of the airport's runways and taxiways (5,000 tons/hour each).
    - Four Oshkosh P-Series/MB 4600 'all-in-one' trucks, each capable of ploughing and sweeping a 26-foot wide path on the airport's runways and taxiways.
    - Three OshKosh H-Series sweeper with a 22-foot wide high-speed broom.
    - ThreeOshkosh P-Series trucks, each equipped with a 26-foot high-speed snow plough.
    - Three trucks that spread environmentally friendly solid and liquid de-icing solutions to ensure that YVR's runways and taxiways don't freeze over in cold weather.

- On its aprons, YVR also uses three high-tech snow-melting machines (dubbed "hot tubs") that are each equal in size to a semi-trailer and capable of melting the equivalent of 20 truckloads of snow – every hour.

- Vancouver Airport Authority has more than $60 million invested in snow removal equipment, as well as in aircraft de-icing equipment, and expansion and enhancements to its aircraft de-icing facilities.

- Aircraft de-icing services are provided by Aero MAG, which services all aircraft operators with its fleet of 22 de-icing trucks on 10 communal de-icing bays.

About Vancouver Airport Authority

Vancouver Airport Authority is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that operates Vancouver International Airport (YVR). Canada's second busiest airport, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) served 16.8 million passengers in 2010 and handled more than 293,000 aircraft landings and take-offs. Sixty-eight airlines serve YVR, connecting people and businesses to 121 destinations in Canada, the U.S. and around the world. The Airport Authority is committed to creating an airport that British Columbia can be proud of: a premier global gateway, local economic generator and community contributor.

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For further information:

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