



## **NANAIMO PORT AUTHORITY AND PACIFIC HELIPORT SERVICES COMPLETE HELIPORT EXPANSION**

**November 16, 2016 (Nanaimo, BC):** The Nanaimo Port Authority (NPA) and Pacific Heliport Services Ltd. (PHS) are pleased to announce that an upgrade project to expand the existing heliport located on NPA's Cruise Centre lands has received final certification and approval for flight operations effective November 6, 2016.

As the licenced manager of the private Nanaimo Heliport facility, PHS currently accommodates Helijet's scheduled helicopter service to Vancouver and Victoria. It will now also be able to accommodate British Columbia's Air Ambulance helicopters during their 7/24 emergency air service requirements. Two additional helicopter landing apron sites were allocated on the heliport site, allowing two helicopters to be positioned for flight operations simultaneously during day and night operations, seven days a week.

PHS President and CEO Danny Sitnam commented, "we are very pleased that we were able to work with our landlord, the Nanaimo Port Authority, along with the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, in establishing this additional heliport capacity that will support emergency patient air transfers to and from the hospital's proximity."

The NPA has supported developing transportation options for Nanaimo and surrounding mid-island areas.

Bernie Dumas, President and CEO for the NPA commented, "we have strongly supported the opportunity to offer this dedicated helicopter landing area and with the recent expansion of the heliport, it now allows emergency first responders to meet the community's' needs, all while making this area a truly multi-modal transportation hub."

The Nanaimo Regional General Hospital's heliport is temporarily closed due to surrounding construction plans currently underway. The PHS Heliport is certified and recognized by Transport Canada, meeting the latest in safety and operating helidrome standards required.

### **About Pacific Heliport Services Ltd.**

Based in Richmond, BC, Pacific Heliport Services Ltd. (PHS) is a Canadian company and is Canada's largest Heliport operator of publicly and privately designated heliports. PHS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Helijet International Inc., a Canadian company and the world's largest helicopter airline.

**Media Contact:** Rick Hill: VP-Marketing and Commercial Programs: P 604-231-3511 [rickhill@helijet.com](mailto:rickhill@helijet.com)

### **About Nanaimo Port Authority**

The Nanaimo Port Authority is one of 18 Port Authorities across Canada, established under the Canada Marine Act to promote and support the national, regional and local economy and to ensure a safe and secure harbour for cargo operations.

**Media Contact:** Bernie Dumas: President & CEO Nanaimo Port Authority: P 250-753-4146 [cruise.npa.ca](http://cruise.npa.ca)