Airport Categories

Canada's Airports

- The National Airports Policy (NAP), introduced in 1994, established categories for airports that were operated by Transport Canada (TC) and transferred to other operators
  - At the time of the NAP, TC owned and operated 149 airports, but there were other airport operators as well.
  - Key drivers to transfer and commercialize airports: ensure local focus and control; financial-self sufficiency; and direct TC priority toward its regulatory and oversight role.

- Non-NAS airports mostly transferred to other levels of government
- TC still owns and operates 18 smaller airports for which no other party would accept responsibility

National Airports System (NAS) airports

26 in total - 22 leased to and operated by airport authorities, 3 by Territories, 1 by Municipality

Airport Authorities

- Victoria
- Vancouver
- Prince George
- Calgary*
- Edmonton*
- Saskatoon
- Regina
- Winnipeg
- Thunder Bay
- London
- Toronto Pearson
- Ottawa
- Quebec City
- Montreal (YUL, YMX)
- Fredericton
- Saint John*
- Moncton
- Charlottetown
- Halifax
- Gander
- St. John's

Territories

- Whitehorse
- Yellowknife
- Iqaluit

Municipality

- Kelowna

  Joint ownership between TC (≈60%) and City (≈40%) since 1958, no rent and a historic anomaly

Other Airport Categories: Regional and Local, Small, Arctic

- Regional and Local - Fewer than 200K passengers (in 1994)
  - 64 transferred, mostly to municipalities or provinces
- Small - No scheduled passenger services
  - 39 transferred, mostly to municipalities or provinces
- Arctic - In Territories
  - 8 transferred

* Incorporated provincially

TC owned airports

- **Quebec**: Chevery, Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon, Sept-Îles, Natashquan, Eastmain River, Havre Saint-Pierre, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Wemindji, Waskaganish, Kuujjuaq, Shefferville
- **British Columbia**: Penticton, Port Hardy, K'il Kun Xidgwangs Daanaay (formerly Sandspit), Victoria Harbour
- **Newfoundland and Labrador**: Wabush, St. Anthony
- **Manitoba**: Churchill

Canada's Airports

- There are more than 550 certified aerodromes, land and water, in Canada
- Many non-NAS airports also provide critical connectivity for passengers and goods
  - Examples: airports that grew significantly since classification system established in 1990s
  - Also includes many small and regional airports that face unique challenges and pressures (e.g. remote access to fly-in communities)
  - Most of these small airports owned, operated and supported by Municipalities and/or Provinces & Territories
- While there will often be reference to the "Top 4" or "Top 8", important to not potentially overlook other key airports, both NAS and non-NAS
  - Top 4 - Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary
  - Top 8 - Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Halifax
- Realities at small airports in the north or a remote community south of 60° starkly different than dynamics at play at larger airports
  - Level of demand for passenger services in small communities
  - Generate enough revenue to cover the necessary operating costs, maintenance and security infrastructure
  - Higher construction costs (barge for equipment + short season)

Billy Bishop Toronto City Centre

- Owned and operated by PortsToronto; a Canada Port Authority
- Governed by Tripartite Agreement (lease between PortsToronto, City of Toronto, Transport Canada); limits growth with restrictions on noise, runway extensions and jet aircraft
- 2M passengers in 2024

Montreal Metropolitan

- Owned and operated by the Developpement Aéroport Saint-Hubert de Longuiel (DASH-L) - private, not-for-profit corporation (provincially incorporated)
- New domestic terminal opening Summer 2026
- Partnership between Porter and Macquarrie Asset Management; loan of $90M from the Canada Infrastructure Bank

Abbotsford

- Owned and operated by the City of Abbotsford
- 1M+ passengers in 2024

Waterloo

- Owned and operated by Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- 523K passengers in 2024

Hamilton

- Owned by City of Hamilton
- Operated under lease by Hamilton International airport Limited; subsidiary of Vantage Group
- One of largest airports for domestic air cargo
- 324K passengers in 2024

Small & Regional airports

- 296 certified land airports
- 18 TC owned and operated
- 5 water airports
- 264 heliports
- Located in smaller communities