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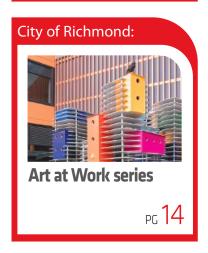






Travel Talk:





Air Canada restarts non-stop YVR-Beijing service

Air Canada recently celebrated the resumption of service to Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) at Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Passengers at YVR celebrated the relaunch, which featured Beijing-themed décor, Chinese pastries, themed cookies, and live DJ music.

Formal speeches by Tim Liu, Managing Director of Sales Planning & Effectiveness at Air Canada, and Russell Atkinson, YVR's Director of Air Service Development and Strategy, spoke to the economic impact the service will provide to both destinations. "This daily, year-round service will generate \$33 million in GDP for our province and support nearly 400 jobs—at the airport and in industries such as tourism and hospitality," said Atkinson. "It will also open the door to exciting new growth opportunities in cargo, business, education, and tourism between Beijing and Canada."

The resumed service will operate four times weekly initially and ramp up to daily flights starting May 29, 2025, onboard Air Canada's 787-9 Dreamliner. The Dreamliner will offer various seating options: 30 in business class, 21 in premium economy, and 247 in economy class.



YVR and Quest surpass holiday Hamper Drive goals

On December 13, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) hosted its 14th Annual Hamper Drive event in partnership with the Quest Outreach Society, providing 1,656 hampers for 9,936 British Columbians in time for the holiday season.

For the third straight year, the YVR-Quest pop-up market—a favourite with shoppers—was back. YVR employees, partners, passengers and the Sea Island community came together to fill the hampers with meal essentials and festive favourites to ensure delivery for families facing food insecurity across the Lower Mainland during the holiday season.

"The holidays are a time for family and friends to come together over shared meals and beautiful food,"



The YVR-Quest 2024 Holiday Hamper Drive delivered 1,656 hampers to families in need, surpassing its 1,500 hamper-delivery in 2023.

See HOLIDAY HAMPER DRIVE page 2

Bubble Waffle Cafe lands at YVR

The Lunar New Year 2025 is off to a delicious start at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) with the opening of Bubble Waffle Cafe, the first food and beverage addition to the terminal

As part of YVR's journey to transform the airport's culinary program, Bubble Waffle Cafe brings a taste of Richmond's vibrant culinary scene to the International terminal (pre-security), offering passengers a unique, local dining experience.

Bubble Waffle Cafe, has earned a reputation for excellence across BC and beyond. The quick-service restaurant serves various favourite dishes, including noodle soups, Hainanese Chicken on Rice, Dry Noodle Combos, its signature mouthwatering bubble waffles, and Hong Kong-style drinks.



See BUBBLE WAFFLE CAFE page 2





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YVR North Runway Project Update

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is undertaking a modernization program to upgrade its North Runway, built in the 1990s, that will better serve its aviation partners and airlines for years to come.

Since announcing its North Runway Program upgrades in October 2024, YVR has been advancing the project's early works, completing training, and gearing up for the summer construction period.

As part of the early works, crews continue to upgrade the edge light conduit system and replace runway light cans with newer models. The conduit system protects electrical wiring for runway edge lights and ensures safe operations, especially during low visibility.

Crews recently completed work outside critical areas and will continue with the remaining sections in the coming months.

Additionally, crews are

replacing runway light cans to improve the structural support and provide weather protection and maintenance access for the runway lighting system.

Looking ahead, crews will establish the construction laydown areas both airside and groundside.

Crews working airside will stay outside the runway safety environment, allowing work to occur during daily North Runway operations.

Planning for the start of paving work, scheduled to begin in April 2025, is underway, with close collaboration with YVR's contractors to coordinate construction with operations, security and traffic management.

Safety and security remain top priorities, and crews are conducting readiness exercises to finalize all aspects of construction and paving before the work commences in April, to ensure safety and efficiency during the North Runway Program upgrades.

This project is bringing together a variety of new and existing contractors with a unique opportunity to collaborate in line with YVR's Contractor Safety Management Program, with all teams working together to ensure the safe execution of the project.

For more information about YVR's North Runway Program and to sign up for the bimonthly newsletter, visit YVR's resource hub at yvr.ca/northrunway.

Below: North Runway updates include trenching to tie edge lights to the new electrical infrastructure.



Above: Replacement of corroded light cans, used to help pilots navigate to and land at the airport.

Holiday Hamper Drive from page 1

said Theodora Lamb, Executive Director of Quest. "What we've seen and experienced over the past year are increasing barriers to accessing good food and healthy groceries. We know more than 21 per cent of British Columbians, or just over one million people, live in food-insecure households. The incredible spirit and generosity of everyone at YVR makes a day like today,

with a real impact on people in need, possible."

YVR has been a committed partner to Quest Outreach Society and the organization's goal of ensuring access to healthy and affordable food since 2011. A shared commitment to supporting the community fuels the airport's drive to host the holiday hamper event and ensure its success.

"Participating in the Quest Hamper Drive allows us to give back to our community in a meaningful way," said Tamara Vrooman, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) President and CEO at YVR. "By coming together, we can help ensure that families facing food insecurity have access to meals during the holiday season. This initiative reflects our commitment to making a positive impact and supporting those in

The festive event at YVR included music, cookies, hot chocolate, and a TapSnap Photobooth. A new edition to the festivities was a YVRbranded holiday greeting card station, allowing travellers, employees and community members to include a card in

their hamper for a personal touch.

Packed in the hampers were antibiotic-free and halal-certified turkeys, fresh local produce (onions, carrots, potatoes, beets, and mandarin oranges), two packs of gravy and chicken stock, stuffing, cranberry sauce and a sweet holiday treat.

In addition to hosting the event onsite in the airport's

International terminal, YVR also donated \$65,000 to Quest to support the Hamper Drive initiative and Quest's regular programming.

Quest distributed the hampers to partner agencies and registered clients of their non-profit grocery stores.

For more information on Quest and its services, visit questoutreach.org.

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Bubble Waffle Cafe from page 1

First opening its doors in 2012 at Richmond's Aberdeen Centre, Bubble Waffle Cafe quickly gained popularity for its authentic flavours and highquality food offerings.

Since then, it has expanded throughout Western Canada, with locations in the Lower Mainland, Kelowna, and Calgary, Alberta.

Partnering with local businesses such as Bubble Waffle Cafe allows YVR to showcase British Columbia's unique flavours and connect travellers worldwide to the heart of Vancouver's vibrant food scene.

Bubble Waffle Cafe is

located pre-security in YVR's International terminal and is

open daily from 9am to midnight.

WHAT IS A BUBBLE WAFFLE?

Bubble waffles, or Puffle waffles, are a type of waffle that originated in Hong Kong. They are characterized by their unique honeycomb-like texture, which results in a waffle that is crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. The waffle's distinctive shape features round bubbles, easily torn apart for a satisfying eating experience.

The classic bubble waffle recipe includes familiar elements such as flour, eggs, sugar, milk, butter, and baking powder. However, variations can be made by adding flavourings like vanilla extract or using alternative flours for dietary preferences. The versatility of bubble waffles allows for creative experimentation with the batter and the fillings.

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Accessible travel, a key feature at YVR

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is focused on ensuring a seamless travel experience for everyone. Guided by its Beyond Accessibility three-year plan, the airport is co-designing solutions with community and accessibility partners to ensure its airport environment is predictable, lowstress, and enjoyable for people of all abilities.

Assistance starts curbside

Through YVR's Curbside Greeting Program, a Guest Experience team welcomes travellers even before they enter the terminal. These team members are available outside along the curb and on the Canada Line SkyTrain platform to assist with baggage carts, directions, and accessibility requests such as wheelchair or mobility assistance. Guest Experience members will assist travellers with getting to their check-in counter or designated area, ensuring a smooth transition.

Travellers with specific needs who may require additional support can arrange service in advance with YVR's Customer Call Centre: 604-207-7077, TTY: 604-207-7070 or by email at customercallcentre@yvr.ca.

In-terminal accessibility features

Several amenities are available to help people of all abilities navigate the airport, including:

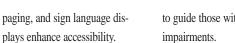
- Assisted change rooms: The International Terminal features a change room designed to accommodate passengers with physical disabilities. It includes a height-adjustable changing bench, a hoist system, and an accessible toilet with a privacy screen.
- · Quiet areas and reflective spaces: A Quiet Area (Gate D67), a yoga space, and a multi-faith prayer room that welcomes all visitors wanting to take a moment for quiet

- contemplation. These spaces cater to sensory overstimulation and encourage moments of reflection.
- · Support to service animals and companion pets: To meet accessibility needs, YVR has several animal relief areas for service animals and small pets.
- Less Airport Stress Initiative (LASI): Trained therapy dogs are brought into the terminals to help reduce feelings of anxiety. These dogs and their handlers receive specialized training to support neurodiverse passengers and work in partnership with organizations such as the Pacific Autism Family Network.
- Sunflower Program: This program helps airport staff identify and assist individuals with hidden disabilities, such as anxiety disorders or chronic pain. Lanyards are available at YVR's Information counters and serve as a discreet signal that a traveller may require additional assistance or understanding.

Enhanced communication and technology

Several communications services are also available to ensure information sharing to travellers in a timely and easy-to-understand manner, including:

- · Sign language video boarding messages: All gate information screens display messages in American Sign Language (ASL)/Langue des signes du Québec (LSQ) and International Sign, complementing existing audio and visual announcements.
- · Enhanced paging: New digital controls improve sound quality and allow targeted announcements in specific terminal areas, ensuring clarity for all.
- Hearing loss support: Hearing loops, present at all information counters, visual



- · Language video interpretation: Language line-video interpretation services offer more than 240 languages to translate information and instructions for travellers.
- Independent navigation through the airport: For travellers who are blind or partially sighted, YVR offers free and unlimited access to Aira. This visual interpretation app enhances independence and navigation within the airport. The terminals also feature contrasting floor tiles

to guide those with visual

- · Travel Rehearsal Program: Offers personalized support for passengers with disabilities or diverse needs.
- Facial recognition for seamless boarding: Passengers flying with Air Canada may use Digital Identification, a facial recognition technology, to breeze through boarding without needing boarding passes or ID checks. This innovation streamlines the process while supporting accessibility by reducing physical handling and simplifying the travel

experience for everyone.

YVR's commitment to accessible travel also goes beyond in-terminal amenities. Airport staff, Green Coat volunteers and YVR partners-members of the Richmond RCMP, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)—have undergone neurodiverse inclusion training that focuses on best practices to ensure a welcoming, safe, and supportive journey for all passengers.



The Beyond Accessibility Plan at YVR is designed to ensure a seamless and stress-free travel experience

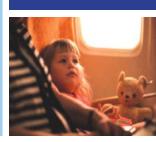


The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program is a simple tool for wearers to voluntarily share if they have disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent.

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Air Canada deemed a Top Employer for Young People

For the second consecutive year, Mediacorp has recognized Air Canada as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2025. The award reflects Air Canada's commitment to creating opportunities for young people to flourish and establish themselves as the leaders of tomorrow.

The editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers evaluate each

employer based on the programs it offers to attract and retain younger workers. These include benefits such as tuition assistance and the availability of co-op or work-study programs, mentorship and training programs, and career management programs, such as initiatives that can help younger workers advance more quickly within the organization.

Air Canada offers paid internship programs in various disciplines. These programs offer numerous professional development opportunities, including access to a range of online learning videos.

Individuals interested in advancing their careers with Air Canada can learn more about opportunities at careers.aircanada.com.



Mediacorp has recognized Air Canada for the second consecutive year as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2025. (CNW Group/Air Canada)

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Textron delivers first Cessna SkyCourier to Canada

Textron Aviation has delivered its first Cessna SkyCourier twin-engine, large-utility turboprop to Air Bravo Corporation.

Air Bravo, founded in 2001, has become one of Ontario's most successful air carriers. The company offers passenger, cargo and air ambulance flight services to nearly any airstrip in North America. The Cessna SkyCourier, a freighter variant, will transport cargo throughout the region.

With the ability to be operated by a single pilot, the SkyCourier provides an ideal solution for air freight, passenger and special missions. The aircraft is highly adaptable and can easily adjust configurations to complete virtually any mission and support various operational activities in remote

SkyCourier was awarded type certification by Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) in late 2024. The twin-engine, high-wing turboprop offers performance and lower operating



Rick Horwath, president and CEO, Air Bravo, with his new Cessna SkyCourier. (Photo courtesy Textron Aviation)

costs for air freight, commuter and special mission operators. It is also available in passenger variants, with a Combi configuration or gravel kit for maximum flexibility.

The freighter variant handles up to three LD3 shipping containers with 6,000 pounds of payload capability. The 19-passenger variant includes crew and passenger doors for smooth boarding and large cabin windows for natural light and views. Both configurations offer single-point pressure refuelling to enable faster

turnarounds.

SkyCourier is powered by two wing-mounted Pratt & Whitney PT6A-65SC turboprop engines and features the McCauley Propeller C779. This heavy-duty 110-inch aluminum four-blade propeller is full feathering with reversible pitch, designed to enhance performance while hauling tremendous loads. The SkyCourier is operated with Garmin G1000 NXi avionics and has a maximum cruise speed of more than 200 knots and a 900 nauticalmile maximum range.



A gravity-defying location for a romantic proposal

Valentine's Day celebrated on February 14, is one of the most popular days for wedding proposals, and there are numerous articles in bridal magazines on interesting and unusual ways for individuals to pop the question to a future mate.

Starting in September 2025, one of the most unusual ways to do so will be available from an agency in France that specializes in organizing spectacular marriage proposals.

ApoteoSurprise, founded in 2006 by an aeronautical engineer, is launching a service that allows romantics to ask for their beloved's hand in a pressurized space capsule that offers 360-degree views of Earth.

Upon arrival at the spaceport, a pilot will welcome the intrepid couple and invite them to board, where StellarEmbrace, a robot equipped with artificial intelligence that allows it to adapt to the emotions and desires of the couple, will serve a five-course gourmet dinner with wines and champagne specially crafted for the occasion.

Lifted by a helium-inflated stratospheric balloon, the pressurized capsule will embark on a peaceful two-hour ascent, offering breathtaking 360° views of Earth through its immense windows.

At an altitude of 32 kilometres, the space capsule will be above 99 per cent of Earth's atmosphere, allowing the couple to gaze at the curvature of the Earth, its blue halo, and the total darkness of space.

A carefully selected playlist will accompany the culinary experience, featuring iconic tracks such as "Space Oddity" (David Bowie), "Across the Universe" (The Beatles), or "Walking on the Moon" (Police).

StellarEmbrace will playfully interrupt the tasting just before dessert to inform one partner that something is missing. The robot will promptly bring the suitor a luminous box that a secret code will open. Suddenly, the suitor will remember the code and enter it. The box will split in two, revealing a luxurious engagement ring case. The suitor will then propose to their beloved, sealing their love in the eternity of space.

On their return to Earth, the robot presents them with a video of every moment of their voyage.

ApoteoSurprise has not revealed the cost for this gravity-defying proposal, but the price for an individual suborbital trip on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo or Blue Orgin's New Shepard range from \$250,000-\$500,000.



The ultimate Valentine's Day venue includes an exceptional meal prepared by a French Michelin-starred chef, served by an Al-powered robot, in a space capsule that offers 360-degree views of Earth.

Flair partners with Immfly for onboard digital solutions

Canadian ultra-low-cost carrier Flair Airlines has partnered with Immfly, a Spanish digital onboard solutions company, to provide onboard retail and digital solutions to Flair's passengers.

Flair Airlines' 20 Boeing 737 aircraft fleet is now equipped with Immfly's cutting-edge Retail on Board solution. This platform combines a seamless crew app with a powerful back-office system, revolutionizing onboard operations.

Starting in March, passengers may also enjoy the convenience of in-seat ordering, allowing them to purchase food, drinks, and retail items directly from their personal devices via Immfly's wireless portal—setting a new standard for inflight service.

"Our collaboration with Flair Airlines focuses on delivering exceptional passenger and crew experiences while serving as a strategic partner to enhance operations and drive new revenue opportunities," said Pablo Linz, CEO and Founder of Immfly. "This partnership represents a key step in our North American growth, aligning with our vision to revolutionize the in-flight experience globally."

By extending the sales window for onboard purchases, Immfly has demonstrated success with other airlines, driving up order frequency and average transaction values. Flair Airlines expects these features to elevate customer satisfaction and generate



Using Immfly's payment processing technology, Flair Airlines customers can order food, drinks, and retail items from their personal devices while onboard.

higher revenue per flight.

Immfly's advanced payment reprocessing technology will allow Flair Airlines to recover more than 80 per cent of previously declined payments, unlocking new revenue opportunities for the airline.

"At Flair Airlines, we are

relentless in our pursuit of delivering exceptional travel experiences, always putting our passengers at the heart of everything we do," said Juliana Ramirez, Flair's Vice President of Ancillary Revenue & Digital Experience. "Our partnership with Immfly is



Flair Airlines Boeing 737-8 MAX. (CNW Group/Flair Airlines Ltd.)

a testament to this commitment, as their cutting-edge retail technology enables us to enhance and evolve our inflight services. Together, we are ensuring our passengers enjoy an efficient, affordable, and eco-friendly onboard experience that sets a new standard for travel."

Flair Airlines operates an expanding fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft, connecting passengers to more than 35 destinations across Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

For information on Flair Airlines flights from YVR, visit flyflair.com.

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Record high global air passenger demand in 2024

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing 340 airlines comprising more than 80 per cent of global air traffic, released its 2024 full-year and December 2024 passenger market performance showing record high growth domestically and internationally.

"On average, 83.5 per cent of all seats on offer were

filled—a new record high, partially attributable to the supply chain constraints that limited capacity growth," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "Aviation growth reverberates across societies and economies at all levels through jobs, market development, trade, innovation, exploration, and more.

"Looking to 2025, there is

every indication that demand for travel will continue to grow, albeit at a moderated pace of 8.0 per cent that is more aligned with historical averages," said Walsh.

Total full-year traffic in 2024 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) rose 10.4 per cent compared to 2023. That figure is 3.8 per cent above pre-pandemic (2019)

Total capacity, measured in available seat kilometres (ASK), was up 8.7 per cent in 2024.

The overall load factor reached 83.5 per cent, a record for full-year traffic.

- **International traffic** in 2024 increased 13.6 per cent compared to 2023, and capacity rose 12.8 per cent
- **Domestic traffic** for 2024

rose 5.7 per cent compared to the prior year, while capacity expanded by 2.5 per cent

• December 2024 was a strong finish to the year, with overall demand rising 8.6 per cent year-on-year and capacity growing by 5.6 per cent. International demand rose by 10 per cent and domestic demand by 5.5 per cent. The December load factor reached 84 per cent, a monthly record.

North American carriers reported a 6.8 per cent annual traffic rise in 2024 compared to 2023. Capacity increased 7.4 per cent, and load factor fell -0.5 percentage points to 84.2 per cent.

December 2024, traffic rose 5.1 per cent compared to the year-ago period.

WestJet gets CTA approval for new codesharing destinations

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) has approved requests from WestJet for a license to operate scheduled international aircraft service through codesharing arrangements with South Africa, Nigeria, and the Maldives.

Codesharing is an arrangement between two airlines,

where one airline sells transportation services (passenger seats or cargo space) under its airline code and licence on a flight operated by another airline. The aircraft's airline can also sell transportation services on the same flight. The airline selling seats on the flight but not operating it is known as the market-

ing airline. Since more than one codeshare arrangement can apply to a flight, several airlines could sell transportation on the same flight.

South Africa and Nigeria fall into standard codeshare flight agreements.

The agreement for flights to the Maldives is being treated as

a "temporary" licence because there is currently no agreement or arrangement between Canada and the Maldives. In that case, the CTA temporarily issues a licence for international air services. WestJet's licence to operate Maldives flights will terminate on June 30, 2027.



Sunwing's commemorative flight recognizes Black **History Month**

Sunwing Vacations' primary airline partner, Sunwing Airlines, embarked on its second annual celebratory flight on February 4 in honour of Black History Month.

Led by a black flight deck and cabin crew, the flight departing from Toronto for Montego Bay, Jamaica, was filled with vacationers.

"Celebrating Black History Month through this commemorative flight is more than just recognition; it's a powerful message about progress and possibility," said Michael Simmons, Sunwing Airlines Director of Line Operations. "As someone who's spent over 30 years in aviation, I've witnessed firsthand how representation has evolved. When I started, I rarely saw pilots who looked like me. By highlighting the achievements of Black aviation professionals, we're showing the next generation that this exciting industry has a place for them.

"This isn't just about acknowledging our past but also how we're actively shaping the future by ensuring young people can see themselves in aviation. When they see us in the cockpit and on board as crew members, they know their dreams can take flight, too."

Together, Sunwing Vacations and Sunwing Airlines honour Black History Month and the legacy of Black Canadians through their Brave Space Conversation series. This series, which includes panel discussions, workshops, and open forums, fosters thought-provoking and meaningful dialogue across the organization.

Sunwing Vacations offers more vacation packages to the south than any other vacation provider, offering convenient direct service from cities across Canada to

popular sun destinations across the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. For more information on their vacation packages and flights, visit sunwing.ca.



Boeing 737-800 and 737 MAX 8 aircraft.

Right: The Sunwing inflight crew was led by Captain Jeffrey Gill (Montreal-based) and First Officer Bereket Dadi (Toronto-based), along with Cabin Safety Manager Urszula Dec (Toronto-based) and Toronto-based Flight Attendants Chantele Francis, Nicole Cregg and Cheryl Williams, who have excelled in the field of aviation, inspiring others and paving the way for the next generation. Photo: CNW Group/Sunwing Vacations Inc.



Sea Island's Favourite Bar & Grill is Open for Dine-in, Take-out & Delivery



- Breakfast Everyday from 9am
- Happy Hour Monday-Thursday from 3pm-5pm
- Monday's Appetizer Special 5pm -9:30pm: Buy one and get the second for 50% Off.
- From 9:30pm 'til close every night enjoy 2 for 1 appetizers
- Cheap Taco Tuesdays (3pm 'til close)
- Wings on Sale Every Wednesday (5pm 'til close)
- Steak & Prawn Dinner Special Thursdays (5pm 'til close)
- All Pizzas \$13 Each on Sundays (5pm 'til close)



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Porter Airlines, BMO Mastercard partnership offers travel rewards

Starting this spring,
Canadian low-cost carrier
Porter Airlines will collaborate with BMO to offer a new
BMO VIPorter Mastercard
credit card that provides
enhanced travel benefits for
cardholders, including additional rewards from Porter's
global partners.

The VIPorter Mastercard will reward frequent travellers faster, with members earning valuable travel benefits for fewer flights and less annual spending. By partnering, BMO and Porter plan to strategically work together to deliver more programs that make travel more convenient and rewarding for Canadians.

Highlights of Porter's VIPorter program include:

- All members receive 100% of their eligible points for every flight purchased, including Basic economy fares, excluding taxes and fees. VIPorter is the only airline loyalty program in Canada to give members full value for every dollar they spend on flights
- Accelerated earning and additional travel benefits for

Porter Airlines' Embraer E195-E2 132-seat aircraft flying from Vancouver are configured in a two-by-twoseat design with no middle seats. Photo: courtesy Porter Airlines.

- VIPorter Avid Travellers
- Redeem any seat across
 Porter's expanding network—including points-only
 and cash-plus-points redemption options—with no blackout dates
- Earn confirmed PorterReserve flight certificates, starting at \$3,000 in annual spend

 Head Start allows members to carry over up to \$3,000 in Qualifying Spend into the next year to accelerate their

A pre-launch waitlist is open for VIPorter members.

Avid Traveller benefits

If eligibility requirements are met, a special offer will be available. Full card features will be released at a later date.

Porter Airlines offers direct flights from Vancouver (YVR) to Toronto (YYZ), Ottawa (YOW), and Montreal (YUL). Passengers enjoy perks such as a selection of made-in-Canada snacks and beverages, including wine and beer, at no charge.

More information is available at flyporter.com.



Lufthansa Group Airlines has introduced a new service for its passengers, Apple AirTag integration, for enhanced passenger baggage tracking.

Customers of Lufthansa and its affiliates, SWISS, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines and ITA Airways, may use the new function to privately and securely share the location of their AirTag or Find My network accessory via the familiar digital channels of the baggage tracing service.

The group's airlines integrate this information into their systems accordingly and can digitally support baggage tracking.

"Our digital products team, the 'Digital Hangar' with its approximately 1,000 experts, offers our customers new digital services, transparent infor-

orders@imperialhobbies.ca imperialhobbies.ca

Lufthansa Group airlines
Apple AirTag integration for
enhanced baggage tracking
is part of ongoing digital
innovations from its 'Digital
Hangar' products team.
Photo: courtesy Lufthansa
Group.

mation and support along the entire journey every month," said Dieter Vranckx, Member of the Executive Board and Chief Commercial Officer of



the Lufthansa Group. "The use of Apple AirTag data is one example of many ways in which we are continuously developing the customer journey of all our Group airlines due to innovative digital services." Lufthansa offers direct flights to Frankfurt or Munich from Vancouver. For more details, visit lufthansa.com.



YVR's Top Milestones of 2024















The mission at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is to serve the B.C. community and the economy that supports it. In 2024, YVR continued to fulfill that mission through growth, innovation, and meaningful connections.

Here are some of the more memorable milestones from 2024

Musqueam

partners with its friends at
Musqueam to showcase the
vibrant Musqueam culture,
hosting the airport's Musqueam
Market. Additionally, at various times throughout the year,
YVR provides opportunities for
people travelling through the
airport to experience Indigenous
art, food, and crafts.

Haul for Hope: For this event, 10 teams comprised of employees from YVR and businesses across the Lower Mainland each set out to raise funds for Hope Air and, on

September 20, came together to compete for the fastest time in pulling a Q400 aircraft 100 metres. Of all the funds raised during the event, YVR contributed \$50,000 and matched all funds raised by its employee teams for a total donation of more than \$90,000.

New Food and Beverage Openings:

YVR introduced several new food offerings in 2024, including two beloved Vancouver favourites—Lee's Donuts and Triple O's. These latest additions bring convenient, local flavours to the airport.

ZipAir Starts Service at YVR: ZipAir, the low-cost Japanese carrier, began service from YVR, making it easier for travellers to explore Asia.

Energy Advisory Council Formed: YVR's
Energy Advisory Council is a
group of local and international







experts focused on advancing sustainable energy practices at the airport. This new environmental initiative aims to reduce the airport's carbon footprint further while leading to environmental innovation.

Skytrax Win: YVR was named Best Airport in North America at the Skytrax World Airport Awards for the 14th time. Regaining the top spot as Best Airport in North America results from the dedication and hard work of its employees and everyone working on Sea Island to serve travellers and the community.

A&K Robotics Cruz Mobility Pods:

With the innovative team at A&K Robotics, YVR introduced Cruz mobility pods, enhancing passenger airport accessibility. These cutting-edge, self-driving

pods are now available to assist in navigating the airport with ease and comfort.

Air Canada's launch to Singapore:

Air Canada launched direct flights from Vancouver to Singapore, providing new opportunities to grow tourism, support increased trade and connect families and friends across the Pacific region. Ferguson Road re-alignment: YVR and Metro Vancouver announced the newly re-aligned Ferguson Road opening for public use. The new 2.2-kilometre section of roadway, valued at \$28 million, was jointly funded by YVR and Metro Vancouver, showcasing a strong partnership in advancing regional infrastructure.

YVR, BC **Government sign MOU:**



To kick off this partnership with YVR, the Province is investing in three key projects that will support the broader aviation industry: \$250,000 for a sustainable aviation fuel opportunities study; \$375,000 to support the creation of a net-zero airports action plan and \$250,000 for a study to explore opportunities to

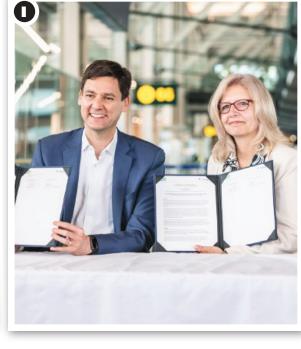
enhance the movement of people and goods between YVR, Vancouver Island and beyond.

Employee Giving: In 2024, YVR employees directed more than \$117,000 to support 251 causes across Canada and volunteered more than 2,900 hours to local charitable organizations. The gifting

initiative included working with A Better Life Foundation through Plenty of Plates to provide nutritious meals and a sense of dignity to individuals and families in need.

Sharing YVR's success story with the Board of Trade: Tamara Vrooman, Vancouver

International Airport (YVR) president and CEO, addressed the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade on October 30 and highlighted YVR's role in supporting regional economic growth. Her speech emphasized the airport's dedication to innovation and sustainability in the face of evolving travel needs.



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February 25-26, 2025

Manitoba Aviation Conference

The 2025 Manitoba Aviation Conference will occur on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25th and 26th, with additional events before and after the conference. For more information, visit mbaviation.ca

April 28-30, 2025

Northern Air Transport Association

Whitehorse, YT

Program information and registration will be posted at natacanada.org. Contact admin@natacanada.org about attending, exhibiting or sponsorship opportunities.

May 5-7, 2025

Alberta Aviation & Aerospace Council

Best Western Premier Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary, AB

The 2025 event will feature two trade show areas with limited space. The defence showcase displays top technologies and innovations in the defence sector. Aviation and Aerospace corridor, showcasing Alberta businesses. For more information, visit albertasummit.com

May 26-May 28, 2025

British Columbia Aviation Council Spring Conference Kamloops

Courtyard by Marriott, Nanaimo (Conference Hotel)

Book early to avoid disappointment. Some events are limited. In particular, book airfares early. We have several great travel partners; however, airfares are increasing - especially about 15 days ahead of your travel dates. The conference hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Nanaimo, still has limited dates and rooms at \$228 plus taxes per night. If you need assistance with anything, contact Dave Frank directly at dave@ bcaviationcouncil.org.

May 29, 2025

Pacific Coastal Airlines 31st Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club, 5460 Number 7 Road, Richmond, BC

Mark your calendars for next year's tournament on Thursday, May 29, 2025! Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a first-time participant, we invite you to join us in celebrating community, enjoying a day of golf, and contributing to worthy causes. Together, we can continue to positively impact and uphold the spirit of generosity that defines Pacific Coastal Airlines and its extended family. Link to 2024's golf tournament: https://www.pacificcoastal.com/blog/celebratinga-milestone-pacific-coastal-airlines-30th-annual-memorialcharity-golf-tournament/

June 10-12, 2025

Canadian Business Aviation Association Annual Convention

The convention brings together attendees from diverse roles within the business aviation sector, fostering a comprehensive exchange of industry insights, trends, and innovations. It is a premier platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among key decision-makers and influencers in the business aviation community. More than 700 business aviation leaders are expected to attend, 65+ exhibitors, 15+ aircraft on display. For more information, visit

November 18-20, 2025

Air Transport Association of Canada

Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel Montreal, QC

ATAC's Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow is the premier national gathering offering Canada's best networking, learning and sales opportunities for operators, suppliers and government stakeholders involved in commercial aviation and flight training in Canada. Visit atac. ca/conference-2025.

KF Aerospace President & CEO named inductee to Canada's **Aviation Hall of Fame for 2025**

Tracy Medve, President and CEO of KF Aerospace, has been named a 2025 inductee into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (CAHF).

Established in 1973, Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame honours individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to Canadian aviation and aerospace.

The prestigious honour recognizes Medve's career in aviation and her transformative leadership in advancing the industry and securing KF Aerospace's long-term success.

Medve is one of four individuals named to the 2025 class of inductees whose achievements have left a lasting impact on Canadian

aviation.

The official induction ceremony will take place in September 2025 in Calgary, Alberta.

"Tracy's induction into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame is a reflection of her exceptional leadership and the profound influence she has had on Canadian aviation," said Barry Lapointe, Founder and Chairman of KF Aerospace. "Her work has shaped the future of our company and left a lasting legacy on the industry as a whole. We couldn't be prouder of this well-deserved recognition."

Medve's extensive contributions to Canadian aviation extend beyond KF Aerospace. She is the Past Chair of the Air

Transportation Association of Canada (ATAC) and the first woman in Canada to be named an Honorary Life Member. In addition, she serves as Chair of the Fortis BC and SkyAlyne boards and is a part-time member of the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

About KF Aerospace For more than 54 years,

B.C.-based KF Aerospace has delivered innovative aircraft solutions for corporate, commercial and military customers worldwide-including major airlines like WestJet, Air Canada, Boeing, Purolator and the Royal Canadian Air Force. With facilities across Canada, KF is home to 1,200 highly skilled employees.

KF Centre for Excellence

The KF Aerospace Centre for Excellence is a 60,000 sq ft aviation museum and conference center located next to Kelowna International Airport.

Features:

· Hangars: Two large hangars house vintage and real aircraft, including the de Havilland Mosquito bomber

(1947), the Hawker Tempest MKII (1944), the Odyssey DC-3 (1944), the Convair CV580 (1952)

- Exhibition space: Interactive exhibits, holographic media, and hands-on displays
- Conference facility: A boardroom and large conference space
- **Roof:** A signature roof with a prominent "tail" feature
- Staircase: A doubly-curved, self-supporting cross-laminated timber (CLT) staircase
- Mass timber construction: The building is made from dowel-laminated timber (DLT) for the floors and roof, and CLT panels for the hangar walls

Purpose:

- To celebrate the Okanagan's history of aviation
- · To promote the advancement of aerospace
- · To provide a memorable and immersive experience for visitors

For more information, visit kfcentre.ca



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Travel Talk

A culinary journey through Mexico's

State of Nayarit

From the sun-drenched beaches of Punta Mita to the coffee farms nestled in the Sierra Madre mountains, the state of Navarit is quickly becoming one of Mexico's most celebrated culinary destinations.

Known for its fresh seafood, traditional dishes, and fine dining scene, Nayarit offers travellers a flavourful journey highlighting its rich history and evolving gastronomy.

home to some of the finest dining experiences in Mexico. Boasting luxurious beachfront restaurants that blend international culinary trends with local flavours, it has become a paradise for those seeking refined, gourmet meals in a breathtaking setting.

Traditional Nayarit Dishes

While fine dining has taken root along Nayarit's coastline, the state's culinary soul remains grounded in its



Photos courtesy ENroute Communications.

chiles, garlic, and citrus before This year, the food festraditional dishes, often passed

tival in Puerto Vallarta and Riviera Nayarit will take place from May 15 to June 10, and the 30th Festival Gourmet International, showcasing the region's finest cuisine, will take place from November 6 to 16, attracting food lovers from around the world.

Punta Mita

The exclusive resort town along Nayarit's coastline is

down through generations.

Nayarit's cuisine is deeply connected to its coastal geography, where the sea provides an endless supply of fresh ingredients, and the culture celebrates communal, slow-cooked meals.

One of Nayarit's most iconic dishes is Pescado Zarandeado. This savoury dish features whole fish, typically red snapper, marinated in being grilled over hot coals. The fish takes on a smoky flavour perfectly balanced by a tangy marinade, a testament to Nayarit's expertise in grilling

Another local favourite is Chicharrón de Pescado, crispy fried fish bites often served with spicy salsa. This dish highlights Nayarit's love of simple, bold flavours, where

fresh fish is seasoned and cooked to golden perfection

Nayarit is also known for more complex dishes like Tlaxtihuilli, a pre-Hispanic soup made from shrimp thickened with masa. This hearty dish is a staple in rural communities, where the flavours of ancient traditions are kept alive in everyday meals.

The region's culinary diversity extends beyond seafood to dishes like Puerco Echado, a slow-cooked pork dish seasoned with native herbs and spices. It offers a rich and savoury experience and is served with handmade tortillas and a side of beans, embodying Nayarit's inland cuisine's hearty, comforting essence.

No exploration of Nayarit's

flavours would be complete without trying Tejuino, a traditional beverage made from fermented corn dough mixed with brown sugar and lime juice. This refreshing drink is beloved throughout the region, especially on warm afternoons, and reflects the importance of maize in local culture.

Coffee Culture

Beyond the beaches and coastal delicacies, Nayarit is also becoming known for its coffee culture, particularly in Compostela, where the lush highlands provide the perfect climate for growing rich, aromatic coffee beans. Smallbatch coffee farms, many family-owned for generations, are producing some of Mexico's most sought-after

brews. Visitors can enjoy fresh, locally roasted coffee at one of Compostela's many charming cafes, celebrating the art of brewing alongside the region's rich agricultural history.

Whether you're a seasoned gourmet or a traveller eager to discover authentic Mexican flavours, Nayarit is where every meal tells a story—and every bite is unforgettable.

Flights from Vancouver

Riviera Nayarit has two major airports: Tepic International Airport (TPQ) and Puerto Vallarta International Airport (PVR). Airlines that fly from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to PVR: Air Canada, Flair Airlines, Sunwing and WestJet.



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Lunar New Year celebrations at YVR

Millions worldwide celebrate, renew, and connect during the Chinese Lunar New Year. At YVR, reflecting on the airport's important role in bringing people and cultures together was a special moment.

In February 2024, YVR welcomed nearly 310,000 travellers, many of whom enjoyed the festivities held at YVR to mark the occasion. The primary destinations were Hong Kong, Taipei, Incheon, Shanghai, Narita, Beijing, Guangzhou, Chengdu, and Vietnam.

In 2025, the Chinese Lunar New Year fell on January 29, marking the start of the Year of the Wood Snake. Celebrated for 15 days, the Wood Snake is associated with wisdom, intuition, and strategic growth—qualities that resonate deeply with YVR's mission.

The Wood Snake's energy

encourages looking ahead with careful planning, adaptability, and a focus on long-term success, all of which are core elements of YVR's commitment to excellence.

Teachings from the Wood Snake: strategic growth

Just as a snake sheds its skin to evolve, YVR continues to adapt and grow to meet the changing needs of passengers, partners, and communities. This evolution is apparent in efforts to connect local businesses with significant Asian markets, supporting the local economy and fostering meaningful relationships that benefit consumers and companies.

Along with the summer season, the time leading up to Chinese New Year is traditionally one of the busiest periods for seafood exports to Asia.

In 2024, YVR facilitated



the export of approximately 18,000 tonnes of seafood, with crab as the number one export commodity. These shipments connect British Columbia's seafood industry to destinations across Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong, ensuring that fresh,

high-quality seafood is part of the yearly Lunar New Year celebrations.

Lion dance and other interminal activities

But it's not just about cargo—the 2025 festivities extended into the heart of YVR's terminal, bringing the community together while celebrating diversity and strengthening relationships.

From January 27 to 31, YVR hosted a series of exciting activations to share the joy of the Lunar New Year with passengers and guests. A highlight was a Lion Dance performance on January 29 at *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe* sculpture, where the celebratory energy came to life in full colour and motion. Passengers also enjoyed Lunar New Year-themed photo opportunities at custom wood snake photostations.



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YVR's Top 10 Tips for Winter Travel

One of the busiest travel seasons of the year is upon us, and YVR's airport staff have compiled a comprehensive list to help travellers prepare and plan for a seamless travel experience through the airport.

1. Documents & details

Ensure you have your required travel documents—not expired—well before your trip. These documents include passport/ID, airline reservations, bag specifications and any other records or paperwork needed for the country you're flying to.

2. Packing pointers

In carry-on bags, liquids, gels, and aerosols are still limited to 100mL. Keep them in a clear, 1L, resealable bag. More information is available on the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority website at catsa.gc.ca.

3. Have a parking or transportation plan

Be sure to pre-book your parking at yvr.ca/parking before your trip to ensure you lock in a spot. Otherwise, consider taking the Canada Line—from downtown Vancouver to YVR in 30 minutes or less.

4. Check flight status

Winter weather in other parts of the country could impact your journey, so check your flight status at yvr.ca before you leave home.

5. Prep your Tech

Before leaving home, set up your tech. Watch YVR's Operational Snapshot for the most up-to-date information.

6. Lost and Found

Labelling your belongings with your name and contact information makes it easier for the airport team to reunite you with your items. Similarly, use your phone's lock screen to display an alternative contact number should you be separated from it. Submitting a lost and found report to YVR at yvr.ca is free. Beware of scam websites asking for fees.

7. Arrive early & enjoy

There are many reasons to arrive early to enjoy all the airport offers, from 170 different shops, services and restaurants to the Less Airport Stress Initiative (LASI) Program, featuring St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs.

8. Grab a last-minute gift

Did you know you can purchase products from the duty-free shop while going to the airport and then collect them before boarding your flight? Secure your gifts before you fly and reserve online at Vancouver Shop Duty-Free.

9. Nursing rooms

Need a place to feed or pump in private? YVR has nursing rooms and pods available throughout the airport. A list of where you can find them is available at yvr.ca.

10. Pick up your party

YVR's Cell Phone Waiting
Area is a great place to wait
for your loved ones to arrive.
Enjoy this complimentary parking lot with free Wi-Fi. There is
also 30-minute complimentary
parking in the Parkade for
quick pick-ups and drop-offs.

Supersonic flight is on its way back

Boom, the company building the world's fastest airliner, Overture, performed a successful first supersonic flight of its XB-1 demonstrator aircraft at the Mojave Air & Space Port in California on January 28.

Boom designed, built, and flew the world's first independently developed supersonic jet—the first civil supersonic jet made in America. Flown by Boom Chief Test Pilot Tristan "Geppetto" Brandenburg, XB-1 entered the supersonic corridor and reached an altitude of 35,290 feet before accelerating to Mach 1.122 (652 KTAS or 750 mph)—breaking the sound barrier for the first time.

Historically, supersonic aircraft have been the work of nation-states, developed by militaries and governments. XB-1's supersonic flight marks the first time an independently developed jet has broken the sound barrier.

The first supersonic jet built from airliner technology, XB-1, incorporates many of the key features found on Overture, such as carbon fiber composites, digital stability augmentation, and an augmented reality vision system for landing visibility.

Following its inaugural flight in March 2024, XB-1 completed a rigorous series of 11 human-piloted test flights under increasingly challenging conditions to evaluate systems and aerodynamics. Throughout the flight test campaign, the XB-1 team systematically expanded the flight envelope through subsonic, transonic, and supersonic speeds—while taking smart risks and prioritizing safety.

XB-1's supersonic flight took place in the same historic airspace where Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier for the first time in 1947, among many other historic firsts.

The first supersonic flight of XB-1 marks the first human-piloted civil supersonic flight since the retirement of the Concorde more than 20 years ago, paving the way for the return of commercial supersonic flight onboard Overture.

Overture will carry 64-80 passengers at Mach 1.7, about twice the speed of today's subsonic airliners, on more than

600 global routes.

Boom has 130 orders and pre-orders for Overture from American, United, and Japan Airlines.

In 2024, Boom completed construction on the Overture Superfactory in Greensboro, North Carolina, which will scale to produce 66 Overture aircraft per year.

Optimized for speed, safety, and sustainability, Overture and its bespoke propulsion system, Symphony, are designed to run on up to 100 per cent sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).



Boom makes aviation history with its XB-1, the first civil supersonic jet made in America, breaking the sound barrier.

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Draw will be made from all correct entries received by February 28, 2025.

The winner's name will be published in the Apr/May 2025 edition of *SkyTalk* and at skytalkonline.com.

LAST EDITION'S WINNER:



Marina Piper Answer: Sikorsky 2-72

The Sikorsky S-72 was an experimental Sikorsky Aircraft compound helicopter developed as the Rotor Systems Research Aircraft (RSRA) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Army. The RSRA was a testbed for high-speed rotor and propulsion systems.

Grand Prix of Art Steveston celebrated on No. 3 Road's art columns

Travellers along No. 3 Road at Aberdeen and Lansdowne Canada Line Stations can now enjoy a new art exhibition featuring digitally reproduced landscape paintings.

Works by Sichen Grace Chen, D.F. Gray and Scott Pleydell-Pearce have been installed in the large, backlit display cases at the base of three concrete support columns and will be on view until July 31.

This exhibition is in partnership with Grand Prix of Art Steveston, an annual plein-air

painting challenge and art exhibition along Steveston's historic waterfront. The event invites artists to paint outdoors to capture the spirit or essence of a landscape, incorporating natural light, colour and movement into their works.

Sichen Grace Chen's watercolour, gouache and pencil crayon paintings at Lansdowne Station explore Richmond's quiet and energetic moments. These paintings invite viewers to reflect and savour beautiful everyday scenes along Steveston's waterfront through

their embodiment of atmosphere and colour.

D.F. Gray's soft pastel paintings, also at Lansdowne Station, depict a day out at the Grand Prix of Art Steveston, Richmond's maritime heritage and the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet at Vancouver Airport—putting the "plane" in plein air.

Scott Pleydell-Pearce's watercolour paintings at Aberdeen Station aim to evoke many more sensations from the viewer than a painted reproduction of a photograph. The

impressionistic work strives to capture a feeling of light and movement found in the outdoors of Richmond.

This exhibition is the first of a two-part, year-long showcase by artists who have created work highlighting Richmond's local culture, history and natural heritage. The next exhibition runs from August 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026, and will feature work by Richmond artists.

The No. 3 Road Art Columns Program was launched in 2010 as part of the

Artwork Richmond in Plein Air, D.F. Gray, 2025 and Corners of Richmond, Sichen Grace Chen, 2025 at Lansdowne Canada Line Station. Photo: courtesy City of Richmond.

City's commitment to enhance the No. 3 Road streetscape, in partnership with the Appia Group of Companies and InTransit BC.

For more information about the No. 3 Road Art Columns and the City's Public Art Program, visit richmond.ca/ PublicArt.

Annual Art at Work series

The City of Richmond has launched the 2025 Art at Work series of free professional development workshops for artists and arts organizations.

The annual series features workshops and presentations on a wide range of topics, allowing participants to build knowledge and skills essential for pursuing a professional career in public art, performance, visual art, and community arts.

Space is limited. Registration opens one month before each session date. This year's workshop sessions are:

Public Art 101: Creating Budgets for Public Art Projects

Facilitated by artist Sara Graham Saturday, February 8 1:00-3:00pm Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

Tax Basics for Artists

Facilitated by Marianna Scott, **Quantum Accounting Services** Saturday, February 15 10:00am-1:00pm Online presentation

Exploring Regional Public Art Programs

Facilitated by Biliana Velkova, City of Richmond Public Art Planner, featuring Allison Collins (Burnaby), Quyen Hoang (New Westminster), Cris Mora (Surrey) and Lori Phillips (North Vancouver) Saturday, March 1 10:00-11:30am Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

Making Public Art with Specialist Fabricators Facilitated by Sabina

Sutherland, Art Conservator,

featuring 3DS Fabrication, Jock Hildebrand Foundry, and Solid Rock Steel Fabricating Co. Ltd. Thursday, April 24 1:00-2:30pm Online presentation

Preparing for Art Markets

Facilitated by artist Ilena Cramer Saturday, June 28 10:00-11:30am Richmond Cultural Centre. Performance Hall

Introduction to SmartGrant.ca

Facilitated by Mary Ann S. Anderson, Little Dog Creative Consulting Thursday, August 14 6:00-7:00pm Online presentation

Richmond Arts and Culture Grant Program Information Session

Facilitated by Camyar Chaichian, Program Manager, Community Cultural Development Thursday, September 25 6:00-8:00pm

One Park Otto Finch Haus (2024) by artists Christian Giroux and Daniel Young, located at 8119 Park Road, Richmond.

Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

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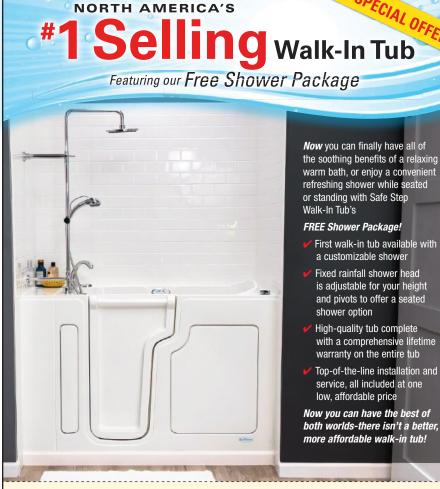
Facilitated by Maria Filipina Palad, Curatorial Assistant, Richmond Art Gallery Saturday, October 4 1:00-3:00pm Richmond Art Gallery, Program Room

The City is committed to making in-person and online

sessions inclusive and accessible to meet diverse needs. Contact culture@richmond.ca if you need support to participate.

For more information and advance registration, visit richmondartgallery.org/art-at-work.

Art at Work series is presented in partnership with the City of Richmond Arts Services and Richmond Art Gallery.



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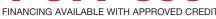
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- provide updates on your quarantine compliance and the development of any symptoms during the 14 days after arriving in Canada

The ArriveCAN app is available for free on Google Play and Apple App stores.

Stay connected and explore the latest airport updates on YVR's news hub.

news.yvr.ca

