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September 30, 2019

Hon. George Heyman, MLA (Vancouver-Fairview)
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Room 112 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

**Vancouver Airport Authority Comments on the CleanBC
Plastics Action Plan: Policy Consultation Paper**

Dear Minister Heyman,

Vancouver Airport Authority appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Plastics Action Plan: Policy Consultation Paper. We support the Province's CleanBC plan. The proposed policy opportunities and regulatory amendments outlined in the consultation paper align with YVR's existing efforts and will support the steps we plan implement in the future to further reduce waste.

Located on Sea Island at the mouth of the Fraser River, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is Canada's second busiest airport, welcoming 25.9 million passengers in 2018. As the community-based, not-for-profit organization that manages YVR, we seek to make YVR a sustainable hub and a big part of this vision is ensuring we properly manage waste—minimizing its impact on people and the environment.

Our waste management efforts focus largely on YVR's main terminals, where we work with partners to reduce our impact. Non-hazardous waste, which includes compostable organics, containers (plastic, metals and glass), fibre (paper and cardboard) and garbage, is an important focus because it constitutes the largest amount of waste at YVR. Under our Waste Management Program, we employ a wide range of methods to reduce terminal waste—from promoting recycling among tenants through creative programs, to piloting new composting initiatives, introducing incentive programs and undertaking regular waste audits. As you are most likely aware, creating public infrastructure that enables the public to appropriately sort waste is a huge challenge for many of us. Lately we have added staffed sortation areas as well as a local entrepreneur's AI enabled waste bin to assist.

Driving our actions is an ambitious goal: to divert 50 per cent of terminal waste from landfill by 2020. We are proud to say that in 2018, we achieved a 51 per cent waste diversion rate for the third year in a row. In a public space, this is remarkable.

With respect to the Province's overall plastics plan, Vancouver Airport Authority strongly supports aligning provincial actions with those of the federal government to ensure there is clarity and consistency for



passengers, operators and concessionaires at the airport, and the Airport Authority. We would also like to offer the following comments on the specific actions outlined in the consultation paper:

Proposed Ban on Single Use Plastics

- Should the Province move to phase out single use plastics, we encourage government to put disability and accessibility considerations at the forefront for all items; for example, plastic straws.
- Exemptions should also consider health and safety issues, as well as food safety and preservations considerations.

More Recycling Options

- We strongly support efforts to improve recycling options, including adding packaging-like products and single-use items. This will provide airport passengers with more options and help the Airport Authority achieve an improved waste diversion rate.

Reducing Plastics Overall

- We support policy initiatives that create increased demand and encourage greater recycling processing. We are pleased that the Province has taken a leadership position and is working collaboratively with the federal government on the the development of national performance requirements and standards for plastics.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback. I welcome the opportunity to clarify any questions you might have. We would be pleased to meet with you or your officials to further discuss this issue.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marion Town', is located below the text 'With kind regards,'.

Marion Town, MCIP
Director, Environment