



Election 2025 Priority: Direct Airport Rent Payments to Airport Infrastructure

Canadian travellers want modern, competitive and efficient airports – but this can never be achieved if the federal government continues to treat aviation as a cash cow.

Canada’s airports currently pay over \$480 million more to the federal government in rent payments for Crown land than they receive in infrastructure support. Canada’s airports pay on average 12% of their revenues on rent payments that go directly to federal coffers; funding that could otherwise be used to invest in airport accessibility, sustainability, safety, security, or to increase capacity.

If we want our airports to grow and thrive, the federal government needs to fully reinvest the payments it receives from airports back into airport infrastructure.

The current system creates a competitive disadvantage for Canadian airports, relative to airports in the United States, where the US federal government has invested over \$40 billion in their airports since 2020 alone.



Canada’s airlines have been calling for full reinvestment of rents for years. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities itself recommended such a policy in its 2023 report entitled “Enhancing the Efficient, Affordable Operation of Canada’s Airports”.

Canadian travellers deserve decisive and concrete actions to reverse this spiralling infrastructure gap before our country is faced with long-term airport capacity constraints and a permanent loss of competitiveness.

