

# Media Release

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## A Southport Anniversary Special Event

**April 28, 2017 – Southport, MB**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Southport held a special event to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Citizens of Portage la Prairie, tenants at Southport, including students and instructors at 3 Canadian Forces Flight Training School (3CFPTS), special guests and dignitaries gathered to witness a commemorative dedication in honour of 25 years of military flight training.

Military flight training has been carried out under private contract at Southport since 1992, when Southport assumed the airport, buildings and infrastructure of the former CFB Portage la Prairie. Currently, KF Aerospace is contracted to carry out military flight training at Southport for 3CFPTS.

At the event, Southport unveiled a CT-114 Tutor which will be installed as a static display with a commemorative plaque in the interpretive park at Southport.

This choice of aircraft has historical significance: the CT-114 Tutor is one of the aircraft that was once used to train pilots at CFB Portage la Prairie.

In addition, the aircraft is painted in the Golden Centennaire colours. The Golden Centennaires were a formed as an aerobatic team of eight CT-114 Tutors in 1967, established for the purpose of celebrating Canada's Centennial Anniversary. The team only performed for one year. 2017, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada's Confederation, marks their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The event also included speeches from Peggy May, Southport CEO; Paulette Connery, Southport Board Chair; The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba; Mayor Irvine Ferris, City of Portage la Prairie; Reeve Kam Blight, RM of Portage la Prairie; BGen Dave Cochrane, 2 Canadian Air Division Commander.

After the speeches, guests were treated to a surprise flyover from the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. The Snowbirds, with their iconic red and white palette, continue to fly the CF-114 Tutor and will perform all

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across Canada this year to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"Military flight training has always been an important part of the community," says Southport CEO, Peggy May. "Over 25 years ago, when the base was faced with imminent closure, citizens rallied to keep military flight training at Southport. We wanted to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a way that showcases the importance of military flight training in our community today, and how it will continue to be a big part of what we do at Southport in the future. We're proud to be a thriving commercial development company and airport that contributes \$110 million in economic output to the region annually."

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Media are invited to attend this event and will have a photo opportunity. Please respect the professional photographer in attendance. Media kits containing biographies of the speakers and more information about Southport will be available at the event.

**Please note all media coverage of this event should be in the style of a recap of the events, rather than promoting the event ahead of time.**

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Southport is a not-for-profit management and development company, with a goal to establish a world-class business centre balanced with lifestyle, wellness, and recreation facilities. We feature an airport, aviation and aerospace training facilities, research and development for new products, light manufacturing and educational institutions. We employ more than 570 people, our 188 residential units are home to more than 500 people, our accommodation facilities for pilot training, AMEs and other programs total more than 300 students each year. We have beautiful wide open spaces, a golf course, and fitness facilities. Since our establishment in 1992, Southport has invested almost 100 million dollars in new facilities and services.