



Transport Canada

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT ADDRESSES CANADA'S AVIATION SECTOR

VANCOUVER — The Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), today delivered an address to key decision makers in the Canadian aviation industry during the Air Transport Association of Canada's (ATAC's) 76th Annual General Meeting and Trade Show.

"We appreciate ATAC's contributions to maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable aviation system," said Minister Merrifield. "The Government of Canada has long recognized the importance of this industry and is committed to helping ensure its sustainable growth and viability over the long term."

Minister Merrifield addressed the importance of Safety Management Systems (SMS) and how they have changed the aviation industry significantly, noting that the introduction of SMS makes air travel safer because it enforces the need for airline personnel to work together in making sure every flight is a safe one.

"Safety and security go together, and the Government of Canada remains committed to keeping our civil aviation system safe and secure," said the Minister. "That is why the government has made additional investments in passenger screening and air cargo security."

Minister Merrifield also highlighted the commercial opportunities created by Canada's Blue Sky policy, which promotes long-term, sustainable competition and the development of new or expanded air services. "To date, we have negotiated open, new or expanded air service agreements with more than 50 countries that collectively represent over 80 per cent of our international passenger traffic," he added.

The ATAC Annual General Meeting and Trade Show is a two-day event that attracts major stakeholders from the Canadian commercial aviation industry. It is an opportunity for delegates from various government agencies, flight training industries, as well as aviation industry suppliers to network and showcase their products and services.

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