

ATAC'S 2016 NATIONAL AVIATION CONFERENCE

ATAC's 2016 Conference and Tradeshow was held in Vancouver on November 15-17. Members voted on a slate of 14 directors either seeking election or re-election to the Board. In the Large Carrier Category, Joe Sparling of Air North, Steve Hankirk of Canadian North, Gord Johnston of Cargojet Airways, Brock Friesen of First Air, Peter Scheiwiller of North Cariboo Air and Mark Williams of Sunwing Airlines were the nominees selected by their category peers. In the Regional Carrier Category, Eric Edmondson of Air Georgian, Douglas McCrea of Central Mountain Air, Bob Lamoureux of EnviroTech Aviation and Heather McGonigal of Transwest Air were the nominees selected by Regional Category Members. The Training Organizations nominated Lynne McMullen of Seneca College and Bob Connors of Waterloo Wellington Flight Center. Finally, the Industry Partners nominated Naomi Nind of Gowling WLG and Patrick Coulter of FlightSafety Canada.

The Board of Directors elected Heather McGonigal of Transwest Air in Saskatoon for a second term as ATAC Chair. The new ATAC Board also appointed Directors to a number of Board Committees including the Executive Committee. Along with Heather McGonigal, the 2016-17 Executive Committee is made up of First Vice Chair Steve Hankirk of Canadian North, Second Vice Chair Eric Edmondson of Air Georgian, Honorary Treasurer Quentin Smith of Pacific Coastal Airlines, Honorary Secretary Dennis Cooper of Sky Wings Aviation Academy, and Past Chair Tracy Medve of KF Aerospace.

Jim Rogers of Flair Airlines and ATAC's very own Debbie Simpson were inducted as ATAC Lifetime Honorees. John Kane of Sunwing Airlines received the Paul Mulrooney Memorial Award of Excellence and ATAC won the Hope Air Outstanding Philanthropist Award in honour of all of its

members' long time support of Hope Air.

We measure the success of the Conference according to four major criteria. The first is the quality of the information shared during conferences, plenaries and breakout sessions. The second criterion is the quality of the networking opportunities offered by the Conference. The third criterion is simple but sometimes the hardest to achieve. Did people enjoy themselves? The final criterion is that it must be financially profitable for ATAC. The feedback received indicates that we have reached our goal on all counts. The tradeshow was sold out again this year and the atmosphere was buzzing with an upbeat attitude towards our industry.

ATAC Flight Schools on the Move

Last fall, nine ATAC flight schools were in Shenzhen promoting the FlyCanada brand to the China market. In addition to hosting a FlyCanada booth, flight schools attended the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) annual conference. Immediately following this mission in November four ATAC flight schools attended the Pilot Careers Live Training Exhibition at London Heathrow where they met some 1,500 students seeking pilot training from professional pilot schools.

The main theme of the 2016 Conference was "Innovation". ATAC flight schools from across Canada met for 3 days with an innovative approach to engaging participants. The entire program was interactive with participants responding to each of the presentations immediately by e-mail so that data could be captured and fed back to the audience over the 3 days.

Presentations and discussions represented topics under broad headings such as "What has ATAC Done for me Lately?", "Keeping Up with Industry and Regulatory Trends", "Taming the Octopus" (Dealing with Regulatory Burdens), "Innovation in

Marketing and Business", "Filling the Gap between Training and Programs", and more. The feedback was very positive with many participants claiming this was the best ATAC meeting to date.

Mike Skrobica's Retirement

This year's Gala Dinner gave us an opportunity to celebrate Mike Skrobica, ATAC's CFO and Senior Vice President, who is retiring after over 21 years at ATAC. Mike was hired at ATAC as Vice President of Finance but he leaves as much more than that. Mike has become one of the most respected Subject Matter Experts in Aviation Security in our industry, not only in Canada, but internationally. He is also considered as a luminary in the field of facilitation and one of the fathers of the Airport Improvement Fee Agreement. Mike was also tasked with the thankless job of Acting President not once but three times.

Before joining ATAC in 1996, Mike had worked for Air Creebec, Austin Airways, Air Ontario, First Air and Ptarmigan.

Although we will continue to call on Mike's wealth of knowledge from time to time, we wish him the very best in retirement.

ATAC Conference Rebranding

Please note that the ATAC Conference and Tradeshow, to be held in Montreal on November 6 - 8, 2017, is being rebranded going forward as the Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow.

ATAC IS PROUD TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS



AirStart
Mississauga, ON



Avjet Holding
Drummondville, QC



BMG
Insurance Brokers
Avjet Holding
Drummondville, QC



Canadian Aviation College
Mississauga, ON



Canadian Propeller &
Aircraft Components
Winnipeg, MB



Elix Aviation Capital
Dublin, Ireland



Galdos Systems
Vancouver, BC



Human Logistics
Toronto, ON



Pole Air Aviation
Lachine, QC