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ATAC Expects Government to Introduce Passenger Rights Bill Before the 2015 Election

Popular issues, such as consumer protection, are always appealing to elected officials. Consequently, it would not be surprising to see Passenger Rights appear on the government's agenda before the next election. Private members bills were tabled in the past by opposition parties, one of which passed second reading only to be abandoned after committee work. Industry unilaterally opposed this bill because it was badly drafted, threatened to oppose safety considerations against financial loss, and would have ended up raising costs for both the industry and passengers.

The industry was expecting Passenger Rights to be a key element of the last Throne Speech and all were surprised, including senior political observers, to see the issue left out. It is possible that the government did not want to play such a trump card two years away from the election.

ATAC plans to work with its airlines and other industry partners to propose key elements of a future Passenger Rights Regime. These would include many difficult aspects such as the whole question of carrier liability which has to be drafted in accordance with the Montreal Convention and take into account the number of parties involved in the reasons for flight delays and/or cancellations.

ATAC is certainly planning on being an active participant in this debate!

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ATAC Utilizing New CARAC Consultation Process

Following the launch last fall of the new CARAC consultation process, ATAC has been using the simpler and more accessible tool to comment on planned new regulatory activities related to Aerodromes and CAR 521. ATAC sincerely hopes that this new process will help remove and prevent from re-occurring the log-jam of regulatory changes that the industry has worked so hard to develop for safety and efficiency gains!

MRO International Marketing a Focus of ATAC

ATAC continues to develop great new international opportunities for Canadian MROs! Building on previous successes at MRO Americas and MRO Europe, ATAC continues to work with our MRO members and our government colleagues to grow the Canadian MRO presence in the US and Europe and going forward, Latin America. ATAC is again providing full support for MRO Americas 2014 taking place in Phoenix, April 8-10, and plans are under development for MRO Europe 2014 in Madrid, October 7-9, MRO Latin America 2015 in Buenos Aires, January 2015 and MRO Americas 2015 in Miami Beach, April 14-16. For those interested in participating in a booth, match-making/B2B sessions and/or taking part in a Canadian networking event please contact Les.

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ATAC SMS Toolkit "New Additions for 2014"

After the successful launch of the ATAC Toolkit in 2011, ATAC has undertaken a rewrite based on the comments and suggestions from Transport Canada Regional Directors and SMS experts. The rewrite has a more robust emphasis on quality assurance and work flows to enhance the user experience. The Toolkit helps build a compliant SMS process which is commensurate with the size and complexity of your company.

The 2014 version will be sent via e-mail to all current ATAC member companies holding original copies and to any ATAC members who request it.

Mission to Singapore Airshow and China - February 2014

ATAC was invited to represent flight training in a Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) Canadian aerospace mission to the Singapore Airshow and China, February 9-22. Four ATAC member companies participated: Medicine Hat College, Moncton Flight College, STR-SpeechTech and Super T Aviation.

The mission introduced Canadian aviation companies to prospective Asian partners and

WHAT'S NEW AT ATAC

ATAC SPRING EVENT May 29, 2014 - Ottawa, ON

Industry Symposium:
"Passenger Rights"

Reception:
"Women and Aviation"

allowed them to gain first-hand knowledge of the market environment. The activities included one-on-one meetings, networking events and seminars.

The focus was on Canadian companies like FTUs to showcase their training capabilities to the Asian market. There were 11 companies participating in the mission representing a broad cross section of the Canadian aviation and aerospace industry.

ATAC will be reporting on the opportunities identified in the Asia market at the May 29 meeting of the Flight Training Committee in Ottawa.

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Government Announces New Tax on Visitors

On December 7, 2013, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration announced a new tax on non-visa exempt visitors to Canada. The tax will be called the Electronic Travel Authorization or eTA. The tax will fund a new Advanced Passenger Information System similar to the United States' ESTA System. While no amount was announced the Department previously has said the tax would be competitive with the U.S. ESTA tax of \$14 per passenger. The Department expects the system to be effective April 2015. ATAC will attempt to put a number of safeguards in place regarding the eTA.

CTA Announces New Interline Baggage Rules

The Canadian Transportation Agency announced the establishment of new Interline Baggage Rules. The intent of the rules is to avoid consumer inconvenience on interline travel as it relates to baggage. The rules are similar to the U.S. rules introduced in 2012-2013. This alternative was favoured by virtually all Canadian airlines.