

THE 2018 ATAC CANADIAN AVIATION CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW

The Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow, hosted annually by ATAC, will be held in Vancouver on November 13-15 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel.

This year's conference promises to be of particular interest as many important issues will be at a major crossroads. These include much needed regulations surrounding the use of marijuana, as the Conference will be held barely one month after the October 17 date announced by the Prime Minister as the official date recreational marijuana will officially become legal in Canada. Carriers need a clear set of regulations put in place on this issue and nothing is forthcoming that we are aware of. Transport Canada can't simply put the onus on pilots, crews and maintenance engineers, relying on them to behave professionally and not work should they not be fit. The Transport Minister has to table a clear set of rules in order to avoid a period of regulatory uncertainty which would rely on pilots and carriers to interpret

and apply the law as they understand it.

Flight and Duty Time regulations should also be closer to being sorted out by then. We are still hoping that the Minister will listen to the many grave concerns voiced by industry and be open to collaboratively finding a workable solution which will minimize the serious socio-economic impact on Canadians. We have had little indication that the Minister and his department have been swayed at all by the arguments voiced by members of his own caucus and repeatedly by industry. We have asked for sector specific regulations and a closer alignment with the US regulations on flight and duty time. We reiterate our offer of full cooperation in this issue of the utmost importance.

Another key issue to be addressed at the Conference is that of the labour shortage in our industry. The absolute urgency of this situation has brought all of industry together to develop immediate and lasting solutions.

The ATAC led Working Group on Labour Shortage in the Aviation Industry has been tackling this issue for 18 months, identifying root causes, creating marketing tools to attract youth and women to aviation, and approaching both private and public partners looking to set up much needed financial instruments to fund ab initio and advanced flight training. ATAC is concentrating its efforts on finding such financial mechanisms and on instructor retention as these are two key aspects of the problem.

A full range of committee meetings including numerous noted guest speakers and panelists will be held during the three-day event, providing always topical, informative and engaging meetings. A wide variety of commercial aviation related topics, certain to covers everyone's areas of professional interest, will be presented throughout the Conference, including a 90-minute plenary with Transport Canada Civil Aviation senior management.

AVIATION ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - Carbon Offsetting & Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)

CORSIA, the market-based measure that addresses the increase in total CO₂ emissions generated by aviation as of 2020, will be another important issue discussed at this year's Conference. CORSIA is expected to complement other planned measures such as development and evolution of aircraft technology, operational improvements increasing efficiency and the greater use of sustainable aviation fuels.

The CORSIA scheme targets air operators that emit more than 10,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually on international flights including cross border flights.

The CORSIA program requires fuel monitoring for all countries and will start January 1, 2019. Transport Canada is encouraging operators to start submissions of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

Systems (MRV) as early as September 2018 so they can be approved by November 30, 2018. The MRV is not required for domestic aviation, aircraft with less than 5,700 kg maximum take off mass, humanitarian, medical or firefighting operations or helicopter operations.

The Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow will host, in collaboration with Transport Canada and Sunwing Airlines, a CORSIA information session for operators. This will be an opportunity to hear from CORSIA specialists, the regulator, and an air operator who has hands-on experience with the reporting program.

Online registration to the Canadian Aviation Conference is now open.

John McKenna
President and CEO
Air Transport Association of Canada

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