



CANADIAN  
AIRPORTS  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL DES  
AÉROPORTS  
DU CANADA

# Airports Canada Conference      Conférence des aéroports du Canada

May 26 - 28, 2025 // Quebec City, QC  
26 au 28 mai 2025 // Québec, QC



Connecting Canadians  
Connecter les Canadiennes et les Canadiens

## 2025 AIRPORTS CANADA CONFERENCE AGENDA

All sessions and events will take place at the Hilton Quebec.

Updated: May 6, 2025 // Subject to Change

### PRE-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

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|-------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM | <b>CAC Security Committee Meeting</b> <i>Invitation only</i><br><i>Ste-Foy/Portneuf</i> |
| 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM | <b>Council of Chairs</b> <i>Invitation only</i><br><i>Orleans</i>                       |
| 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM | <b>Chair's Dinner</b> <i>Invitation only</i>  |

#### MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | <b>Members Networking Breakfast</b><br><i>Ballroom - Palais</i>                          |
| 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | <b>CAC Security Committee Meeting</b> <i>Invitation only</i><br><i>Ste-Foy/Portneuf</i>  |
| 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | <b>CAC Financial Affairs Committee Meeting</b> <i>Invitation only</i><br><i>Beauport</i> |

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Large Airports Caucus</b> <i>Invitation only</i> <i>Courville/Montmorency</i>
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Small Airports Caucus</b> <i>Invitation only</i> <i>Ballroom - Kent/Saint Louis</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Members Networking Lunch</b> <i>Invitation only</i> <i>Ballroom - Palais</i>
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Canadian Policy Council &amp; Membership Meeting</b> <i>Invitation only</i> <i>Ballroom - Kent/Saint Louis</i>

## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

**Aviation is the backbone that connects Canadians, unites our communities, and fuels our collective future.**

At the heart of our interconnected economy, airports are catalysts for growth, driving innovation, fostering cultural exchange, and unlocking new opportunities in industries from business to energy. As we look to the future, aviation will continue to play a pivotal role in connecting people, ideas, and aspirations across this vast and diverse country. Every flight, every connection, brings us closer together—strengthening the bonds that tie us as Canadians, and propelling us toward a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow. It all begins with...Connecting Canadians.

*All sessions and meal functions will be held in the Ballroom (Palais/Kent/Saint Louis) on the first floor of the Hilton Quebec.*

### MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	<b>Registration</b> <i>Grande Place Foyer</i>
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	<b>Welcome Reception</b> <i>Open to all attendees</i> <i>Grande Place Foyer</i>

### TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	<b>Registration</b> <i>Grande Place Foyer</i>
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	<b>Networking Breakfast</b>
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Welcome to 2025 Airports Canada</b>  <b>Indigenous Welcome</b> <i>Pierre Picard, Grand Chief, Huron-Wendat First Nation</i>  <b>Welcome to Québec City</b> <i>Bruno Marchand, Mayor, Québec City</i> <i>Stéphane Poirier, President and CEO, Québec City Jean-Lesage International Airport</i>  <b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>Monette Pasher, President, Canadian Airports Council</i>
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>Future Focus: CEO Panel – What is needed to fuel aviation growth in Canada?</b>  Looking ahead, what does the future hold for the airports of tomorrow? Imagine the landscape 20 years from now: how will our airports serve our communities, what will our journeys to and through the airport look like, and what does the future hold for short-haul flights? How will we power flight and our airports? Let's explore these possibilities together.

**Panelists:**

*Tamara Vrooman, President and CEO, Vancouver International Airport*  
*Myron Keehn, President and CEO, Edmonton International Airport*  
*RJ Steenstra, President and CEO, PortsToronto*

**Moderator:** Amir Amidi, Managing Partner, Plug and Play

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

**Networking Break**

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

**Special Presentation - Gerry Bruno Award**

Presented by Solomon Wong, President and CEO, InterVISTAS

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

**Trends in non-aeronautical revenue: Innovative solutions without raising costs**

As airports seek new avenues for revenue, non-aeronautical income has become a key focus in sustaining and growing financial resilience. How can airports innovate and diversify their revenue streams without raising operational costs? This session will explore the latest trends and best practices in non-aeronautical revenue generation, from retail and concessions to technology-driven solutions, real estate development, and more. Experts will share innovative strategies that maximize revenue potential through smarter use of space, digital engagement, and partnerships, all while enhancing the passenger experience and community impact. Join us for a deep dive into how airports are harnessing creative solutions to grow their bottom line—and future-proof their operations—without compromising on affordability or service quality.

**Panelists:**

*David Bisset, Executive Vice President, Paradis Lagardère*  
*Sammy Patel, Vice President Commercial, Vantage Group*  
*Scott McFadzean, President and CEO, London International Airport*  
*Eric Pateman, Vice President, Passenger Experience and Chief Experience Officer, Vancouver International Airport*

**Moderator:** Justin Erbacci, Director General, ACI World

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

**Networking Lunch**

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

**The Future of Air Service – How is the landscape evolving?**

Connecting Canadians is vital to our society and economy. As we look to the future, it's crucial to understand the strategies airlines are implementing to foster growth and how our local markets play a pivotal role in those plans. This evolution didn't begin with the pandemic—it has been underway for years as the aviation landscape adapts to changing passenger needs, new technologies, and global shifts. In this session, we'll explore not only how Canadian airlines are positioning themselves for the future, but also how other jurisdictions around the world are planning for similar changes. Experts will share their insights into the emerging trends and innovations that will shape the future of air service, offering a glimpse into what the skies might look like in the years to come.

**Panelists:**

*Mark Galardo, Executive Vice President, Revenue & Network Planning and President, Cargo, Air Canada*  
*John Weatherhill, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Office, WestJet*  
*Andrew Pierce, Vice President, Network Planning and Reporting, Porter*  
*Ashlynn Gillis, Vice President - Commercial Operations, PAL Airlines*

**Moderator:** Stéphane Poirier, President and CEO, Québec City Jean-Lesage International Airport

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Keynote session: Leading Through Turbulence: Create Your Flight Plan For Team Success**

In Amelia's keynote, she shares three non-negotiables that she used in her successful, uncharted trip around the globe, and they are directly transferable to the business world. Whether the attendees are CEOs/leaders, a sales team, or an entire team of an organization, Amelia's talk contains actionable takeaways that people can start implementing immediately.

**Speaker:** Amelia Rose Earhart

**Introduction:** Marcus Lam, Senior Vice President, InterVISTAS

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Networking Break**

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**From Scarcity to Precarity: The Impact of a Shifting Mindset on Canadian Public Opinion**

Leading Canadian pollster David Coletto will explore the rapid shift in Canadian public opinion over the past 6 months and its impact on political and consumer behaviour.

**Speaker:** David Coletto, Founder, Chair and CEO, Abacus Data

4:30 PM

**Opening Day Wrap-Up**

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Evening Reception Sponsored by SSP**

*Open to all attendees*

*Hilton*

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025**

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8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Registration**

*Grande Place Foyer*

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

**Networking Breakfast**

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

**Canadian Regional Airports at a Crossroads: National Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions**

Canada's vast geography and dispersed population outside of its major cities make air services essential for connecting regional communities. Canada's regional connectivity has fluctuated significantly due to global events and pressures on air carriers. Since 2020, many domestic carriers have reduced or suspended regional operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have yet to fully restore service, citing challenges like profitability, resource constraints, aircraft availability, and changing business strategies. Restoring regional air service remains a priority for many Canadian communities that depend on it for economic growth.

**Speaker:** Julien Carron, Senior Director, InterVISTAS

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

**Connecting Communities: A Focus on Regional and Rural Connectivity**

Connectivity is crucial, especially through a regional and rural lens. In rural markets, addressing issues such as medical access and emergency services is vital for supporting communities. Air travel is not only the preferred mode of travel for Canadians, for many it is the only mode of travel. By prioritizing these connections, we can foster a more integrated and thriving network and plan for the future.

**Panelists:**

*Tammy Priddle, President and CEO, Deer Lake Regional Airport*

*Bernard Gervais, Executive Director, Northern Air Transport Association (NATA)*

*Tristen Chernove, President and CEO, Cranbrook/Canadian Rockies International Airport*

**Moderator:** Reg Wright, President and CEO, Gander International Airport

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Networking Break**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Boosting Productivity – Innovations that will propel us forward**

In today's interconnected ecosystem, industry challenges are shared across the board. Balancing capacity with future investments is key to supporting growth, and boosting productivity depends on seamless interconnectivity. This impacts the flow of people and resources across the entire journey. As the government explores air rights and regulations, how can industries drive innovation on their own while planning for the

future together? Addressing the seasonality of business and managing financial fluctuations are part of the conversation. The solution isn't always about expanding infrastructure or adding more concrete; it often lies in improving efficiency and resolving existing challenges. With advancements like biometrics, touchless travel, and innovative tools, there's an opportunity to enhance the overall experience. How can we collaborate to elevate the journey for everyone?

**Panelists:**

*Mark Cooper, President and CEO, NAV CANADA*

*Tara Mulrooney, Chief Technology Officer and Vice President Innovation, Edmonton International Airport*

*JR Hammond, Executive Director, Canadian Advanced Air Mobility (CAAM)*

*Kurush Minocher, Interim Chief Commercial Officer, Greater Toronto Airports Authority*

**Moderator:**

*David Duval, Professor, Business and Economics, University of Winnipeg*

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

**Networking Lunch**

1:15 PM

**Conference Closing Remarks**