

**An allocution by the  
Chairman of the Board  
of the  
Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier  
International Airport Authority**

**Une allocution du  
Président du Conseil d'Administration  
de  
l'Administration de l'aéroport  
international Macdonald-Cartier d'Ottawa**

**Jim Durrell**

At a news conference held  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

À l'occasion d'une conférence de presse  
Le 17 mai 2005

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PRIORITÉ AU DISCOURS PRONONCÉ**

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining us here today.  
Bienvenue.

I'm Jim Durrell, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Macdonald–  
Cartier International Airport Authority.

On behalf of the Board, I am very pleased to announce today the launch of the  
design component of Phase II of our 95 million dollar airport expansion program.

We are moving ahead with these design plans for two very good reasons:  
passenger volumes and the state of the old terminal.

Passenger numbers are on the increase and it is only prudent that we are ready  
when the time comes to break ground for Phase II construction.

In 2004 we set an all-time record for the number of passengers who came  
through our doors and the start of 2005 has beat even our most optimistic  
forecasts.

Annual increases are usually in the 2 to 3 percent range.

We are continuing to see increases of 9 and 10 percent year over year.

As critical as passenger volumes are, there's another very compelling reason for  
moving ahead.

The old terminal is just that – old.

The systems that keep it running are in a word, fragile.

The roof is leaking, we're down to one operational chiller and the plumbing is  
rapidly nearing the end of its useful life.

The cost of keeping two plants operating is prohibitive, and it just makes more  
sense to build.

The Airport Authority first announced plans to expand the facilities back in 2000. At the time, we said that by the Spring of 2004 at the very latest, the Ottawa Airport will sport a much different and far more impressive look and feel.

Nous avons raison à deux égards.

Si vous regardez autour de vous, vous conviendrez, j'en suis persuadé, que l'aérogare offre une apparence et une ambiance très différentes.

This new terminal is easier to navigate, it has clear sightlines from check-in to the aircraft, and it's more functional with separate arrival and departure levels. We have covered walkways with convenient, self-serve check-in kiosks and better baggage facilities.

It's a much better look and feel.

We were right, as well, when we said that it would be done "by the spring of 2004 at the very latest." In fact, thanks to good planning and an incredible effort by everyone who worked on the project — including the staff here at the airport — the terminal building opened on budget and six months ahead of schedule.

With our announcement today, we are continuing to build on that success. Not only are we holding open the gates to allow easier access by air to our region, but we are planning to build more of them.

I'd like to turn it over now to the Airport Authority's President and CEO, Paul Benoit, who will speak briefly to some of the details of the project before we take questions.

Paul...