



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

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

## **Jim Durrell**

At the Authority's Annual Public Meeting

À l'occasion de la réunion publique annuelle

Held on May 11, 2006  
At Tudor Hall, Ottawa

Tenue le 11 mai 2006  
Tudor Hall, Ottawa

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VEUILLEZ VOUS REPORTER À L'ALLOCUTION**

**Good afternoon, bonjour et bienvenue.**

**Welcome to the Annual Public Meeting of the Ottawa International Airport Authority.**

**My name is Jim Durrell, and I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors.**

**I am here with my colleagues from the Board and the Airport Authority team to tell you about 2005, which was a busy, and very productive year for the airport.**

**If you recall, we told you last year about record-breaking passenger numbers.**

**Well, I'm pleased to say that we exceeded the figures for 2004, to the tune of 3,735,433 passengers, to be exact, for an increase of 3.5% in 2005.**

**To break the numbers down by sector, domestic traffic was higher by 1.6%; transborder grew by 12.2% and international was 1.9% higher.**

**International traffic was on a much higher growth track earlier in the year, however, with Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma beating down on the Southern United States and Mexico, charter travel was affected.**

**Charters to Mexico were particularly impacted because there was significant damage to resorts and hotels resulting in difficulty finding available accommodations.**

**The situation improved in the New Year, and with Air Transat's recently announced weekly direct flights to Paris, France and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, the stage is set for even better growth in 2006.**

**We had great news on the construction front in 2005.**

**We broke ground in April on the Parkade expansion project, and wrapped it up much earlier than anticipated, and of course, within the budget that we had determined at the outset.**

**We opened the fully expanded facility in December, just in time for the holiday travel rush, and much to the delight of our passengers.**

**I would like to thank our partners PCL Constructors, Dessau Soprin and all of the firms who partnered with us and brought the project to a close so quickly, but carefully.**

**Thanks to excellent collaboration between all the players, the community now has a bigger, better parking facility at their disposal.**

**As you know, expansion will continue in 2006.**

**We announced in early April that we would begin construction on an expansion to the south end of the terminal.**

**An additional 7,000 square metres of domestic and international holdroom space will be constructed, with more retail and food service space, and a total of 12 new gates will be available.**

**It seems like just yesterday when we were all together opening the new terminal.**

**In fact, it was almost three years ago, but with continued growth in passenger traffic, we are at the point where we need to expand, or else become an impediment to this community's growth yet again.**

**It is critical that we facilitate growth, not prevent it.**

**You've heard me talk at previous meetings about Project Clear Skies, which is the Airport Authority's charitable giving program, at previous meetings.**

**Clear Skies is another vehicle for facilitating growth – in our community.**

**I am very proud to say that through the program, we were able to disperse \$106,000.00 in Ottawa-Gatineau in 2005.**

**While we cannot fund every single application, we have a very**

**dedicated team, comprised of members of the Board of Directors, and Authority employees who thoroughly read and researched more than 100 applications.**

**They then made the difficult choices regarding how to best distribute the available funds.**

**I am extremely proud of what they have done, and I honour the respect that they have shown each application.**

**2005 marked the very important 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the City of Ottawa.**

**Given that the airport contributes more than \$1 billion directly and indirectly to the local economy each year, it was fitting that the Airport Authority would participate as a major sponsor.**

**In June, we welcomed residents into the airport with guided tours and information sessions as a part of Doors Open Ottawa, which was a key event on the Anniversary agenda, and we participated in the Bytown Gala which remembered and celebrated the roots of the City in fine style.**

**Our sponsorship was very much appreciated by the City, and further strengthened an already solid relationship.**

**Paul will be telling you about some awards that the airport and the Airport Authority received during 2005. I won't steal his thunder, but will say how proud I continue to be of the team, the**

**facility, and how the community has embraced the new airport. The kind of success that we achieved in 2005 does not happen by accident or in isolation, but is the result of hard work and great partners.**

**I would like to express my appreciation to the entire Authority team, who, under the leadership of Paul Benoit, work tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly.**

**I would also like to thank the volunteers who always do a great job of ensuring that our clients and visitors are well informed and assisted, whether in person or by telephone.**

**A team effort really does make a difference.**

**Speaking of team, I have the good fortune of working with an extremely dedicated and professional group of men and women who make up the Board of Directors.**

**This group, who share their experience and expertise willingly, is deeply committed to the success of the Airport Authority.**

**I extend my thanks to each and every one of you for another great year, and I look forward to continued success in the coming years.**

**We will be saying good-bye to a few Board Members who have moved on to new challenges.**

**They include:**

- **Michel Belley;**
- **Michael Darch;**
- **Larry Malloy;**
- **Jean-Marie Séguin; and**
- **Carol Stephenson.**

**Thank you for your wisdom and guidance, and good luck with all future challenges.**

**I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a few new Members who have been recently appointed.**

**They include:**

- **Martin Leblanc, who was nominated by the City of Gatineau;**
- **Joan McGarry, who was nominated by the City of Ottawa;**
- \_\_\_\_\_; and
- \_\_\_\_\_.

**With Phase II of the Airport Expansion Program underway, I assure you that the next few years will be interesting and rewarding for each of you.**

**During the summer and fall, we will be working with senior management on strategic planning, and together, we will determine the priorities for the organization for the coming years.**

**It is an annual effort that ensures that we keep our eye on what we have collectively deemed to be most important, but also that we understand the risks in the industry and put proper mitigation strategies in place.**

**As the Authority has always maintained, we are a private company managing a public trust.**

**Therefore, it is critical that we not only do things right, but that we do the right things.**

**We are committed to managing our economic and our social and environmental impacts in a responsible manner.**

**As part of the strategic planning process, we have adopted a Corporate Social Responsibility Program that includes a plan to review every aspect of our operation, and to develop benchmarks against which to measure ourselves.**

**While it is a work in progress, we look forward to sharing developments as we go forward.**

**That said, I am confident that this organization is well-positioned to meet the challenges of the future, and I have absolutely no doubt that we will continue to be a source of pride for this community for many years to come.**

**Thank you, merci.**