



**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**

**Held on May 29, 2007
At the Westin Hotel, Ottawa**

**À l'occasion de la réunion
publique annuelle**

**Tenue le 29 mai 2007
Hôtel Westin, 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, for the next hour at least, the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

As always, the passenger volumes are newsworthy. On the heels of back-to-back record years, traffic continued to grow. With the addition of an Air Transat charter to Paris last summer, and increases in the number of direct sunshine destinations coupled with greater frequency, the international traffic had the highest level of growth at 11.95%.

When the numbers for the domestic, transborder and international sectors were tallied, the year-over-year increase was 1.94%. Needless to say, we were and are delighted with the sustained growth experienced since 2003.

Phase II of the Airport Expansion Program has been unfolding very smoothly. Exceptionally mild temperatures in December and January gave the construction crews a cushion that alleviated much of the pressure that the exceptionally cold temperatures of February could have applied.

In all, we're doing fine in terms of the schedule, and we look forward to opening the facility in time for the holiday travel season, although work on the exterior and on the apron will continue into 2008.

I can safely speak for the entire Board of Directors when I say that 2006 was a very good year. I have told you in the past about the excellent collaboration between the Board and the senior management team. Each year we get together to map out the following five-year period in the form of a set of strategic objectives. The following year, we have the opportunity to close out a particular goal, or build upon it based on changes in the industry or a change in overall direction.

One of the objectives that we have been very focused on is the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility framework. In 2005, the Board tasked senior management with developing an action plan to ensure that the Authority manages its business in a financially, socially and environmentally responsible manner. I am pleased to report that in 2006, the team presented a comprehensive policy that was approved by the Board. This policy is a first step towards a more systemic approach to corporate social responsibility and a starting point to identify

issues as the Authority's operations and activities grow or change.

I would like to say thank you to the team for putting a considerable amount of time and effort into creating a meaningful and measurable plan which is very closely aligned with the Authority's commitment to transparency and good governance.

As many of you know, the Airport Authority has made the community a priority since its formation in 1997. We regularly support the travel and tourism industry, we sponsor events in Ottawa and Gatineau, and fund charitable activities on a regular basis. This is in addition to the time that many Authority employees give to the charities that are close to their hearts through volunteering or by being a member of a number of Boards of Directors.

Back in 2004, to mark the 1st anniversary of the opening of the new terminal, the Authority launched Project Clear Skies, which was established to fund charitable projects in the region. Each year, the Project Clear Skies committee, which is comprised of Authority employees and representatives of the Board of

Directors, evaluate applications from registered charities that require support for a particular project.

In 2006, not only did we disperse nearly \$100,000 in funds, we also found a way to generate more funds.

First let me tell you about some of the funding activities. There were some very interesting and worthwhile projects that received a much-needed injection of funds such as the used truck that Rideau Street Youth Enterprises is using to take kids to work sites where they are learning skills that will help them find gainful employment in the future.

There was a window replacement project at the Serenity Renewal for Families facilities and the purchase of major appliances at Solidarity Gatineau-Ouest, to name a few.

In all, 18 projects were funded, which only scratches the surface of the need, however, Project Clear Skies funding is promised until 2008, so the Ottawa International Airport Authority will continue to make a difference in the most effective way possible.

In an effort to raise funds for Project Clear Skies and United Way/Centraide Ottawa, the Authority organized the first annual

Plane Pull for Charity. What a day it was, with 15 corporate and community teams on the tarmac, doing their best to pull Porter Airlines' Bombardier Q400 aircraft 20 feet.

For an inaugural event, it was a huge success. My congratulations and thanks go to the organizing team who not only did a superb job of pulling together the necessary event details, but also provided entertainment, refreshments and treats for all participants and spectators. They had the help of dozens of volunteers, made up of Authority employees, Airport Watch members, family and friends. The event could not have been pulled off without each and every person who showed up on that rainy day in October.

Watch for news of the 2007 edition, which will be held mid-September.

As I mentioned earlier, I will be leaving the Board of Directors – not because I want to, but because my term is expiring. I can say, without exception, that I have enjoyed my time on this Board. I have had the pleasure of almost a decade of working with some very talented individuals – both on the Board, and in terms of the Authority team.

Paul Benoit and I have had some very interesting times over the years. We didn't always agree, but we had some interesting discussions that led to what I can confidently say were the most prudent decisions for the airport. Paul, I have enjoyed working with you and I know you will continue to lead the team and ensure that the Ottawa International Airport remains a world-class facility that serves this community well.

I also have a tremendous amount of respect for the entire Authority team, and have enjoyed working with senior management. Each and every one of you has demonstrated an unfailing commitment to the airport and the Authority.

You make thoughtful and considered decisions which have made Ottawa a leader in the world in terms of airport management and customer service, and which have earned you the respect of your peers in Canada and elsewhere. I wish you every continued success.

The Authority has been very fortunate to count an incredible group of people as Board Members over the last decade.

With talents that cross a multitude of disciplines, the Board has always been diverse, but well-rounded. Without exception, everyone sitting at the boardroom table has had a common

desire to do what's right for both the airport and the community, and they made and supported decisions accordingly.

As I mentioned last year, we had some turnover at the Board level. With the addition of five new members, including Geneviève Brown, Martin Leblanc, Charlie Logue, Patrick Murray and Joan Sun McGarry, as well as a great mix of existing members with varying tenures, we had lively discussion and healthy debate.

I would like to thank those who are here with me today, and also those who have completed their terms during my tenure as Chair, for the time they invested in the airport, and for their dedication to ensuring the airport's success.

As I said in the remarks that are published in the Annual Report, it doesn't matter where I travel; I hear feedback about the airport on a consistent basis. It always makes me proud when I hear how much people appreciate the new terminal, and how much the Authority has done for the city and the community by building a world-class facility that befits not only the capital city of Canada, but the capital city of a G-8 nation.

Each and every time I have the occasion to use the airport in the future, I will no doubt look at the canoe, at the waterfall, at the beautiful new space and I will look back fondly on the debates and the discussions that led to the decisions that shaped the airport that we enjoy today. And I will continue to feel the pride.

With that, I will close my remarks with one more wish to the Board and to Paul and his team for much more success in the future. If the past is any indication, I know the future is very bright indeed.

Thank you, merci.