

**International Airport
Authority**

Ottawa



**Administration de
l'aéroport international**

**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**

J. Peter Vice

At the Opening of PTB Phase II

**Held on February 28, 2008
Ottawa International Airport**

À l'ouverture de PEA Phase II

**Tenue le 28 février 2008
l'aéroport international d'Ottawa**

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
VEUILLEZ VOUS REPORTER À L'ALLOCUTION**

Good evening and welcome. Bonsoir.

My name is Peter Vice and I am very proud to be the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ottawa International Airport Authority.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, and the employees of the Authority, it gives me great pleasure to be here this evening as we officially open the doors to the newly expanded domestic and international wing of the Ottawa International Airport.

I would like to say a special welcome to Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien.

Now in our eleventh year as an authority, I can say with confidence that this is an organization that gets things done.

Think back to when we took over the airport, and what has been started and finished since.

We took on an airport that was virtually unchanged for the better part of two decades.

The region was growing rapidly, yet the airport did not keep up.

The Authority immediately set out to change that reality.

Let me give you a quick overview of what has been accomplished.

First things first, a quick refresh was done to improve the most basic of facilities in the old terminal.

Next, a badly-needed US Pre-clearance facility was planned and built – all in the first year.

A short three years later in 2000, the Combined Services Building was finished, providing a new home to the fire department and mobile maintenance fleet.

A new de-icing facility and runway enhancements were completed, as well as an award-winning, home-grown glycol recovery and biotreatment system that is protecting the groundwater and tributaries that surround airport lands.

In 2003, the spectacular Passenger Terminal Building and Parkade were opened to the public. The Parkade proved so popular, we were required to expand it in 2005.

And, with steadily increasing passenger volumes since 2003, we realized the need to expand the terminal, hence the reason why we are all gathered here tonight in this beautiful new space.

Let me tell you about this space:

In all, there are 7,000 square metres of new holdroom space, 12 new gates, there's a new Maple Leaf Lounge in the works, and there will be new restaurants and concessions for the enjoyment of our customers.

In the next few weeks the gates on the east side will be opened, including three bridges and two ground loading gates.

You will recognize that the finishings and features of the new terminal continue into the expansion, including the custom carpeting, the seating and use of limestone and stainless steel throughout.

We also salvaged a good deal of the BC fir timbers from several World War II hangars that were demolished in early 2007.

The wood has been repurposed to add warmth and charm to the space, and offers a fitting tribute to the military heritage of the airport.

You might have also noticed the interesting looking perimeter fencing that surrounds the apron area on the east side of the expansion. That is a jet-blast barrier that will protect pedestrians while they walk from the long term parking lot to the terminal.

The projects I mentioned, as well as many others, translate into approximately \$500 million of investment in Ottawa/Gatineau.

It is important to note that none of that investment is due to government funding.

When you consider that \$500 million investment coupled with the direct and indirect economic impact of the airport's operations, which were

determined to be in the magnitude of \$1 billion annually, there can be no question that this airport is an integral part of this community.

So, how can one organization accomplish so much in such a short period of time?

Well, it takes the dedication and talent of a good many people, starting with an excellent Board of Directors.

I am pleased to be joined here this evening by many original and former Members to whom I would like to extend a warm welcome.

I consider myself fortunate to work with the current Board, many of whom are also in attendance this evening.

I would like to acknowledge four people in particular.

David Gavsie was the Board's first Chairman, followed by Regis Trudel, Claude Bennett and finally Jim Durrell held the post prior to me.

David and Jim are with us this evening.

I know you will agree that all four gentlemen did a wonderful job of guiding the Airport Authority through the formative, and at times, difficult years.

In the end, we have this beautiful terminal to enjoy and share.

Since day one, the Authority's Chairs and Members of the Board have provided leadership and guidance, but have largely trusted in the Authority team to use their expertise and good judgement to manage the affairs of the airport. The success of all of the projects over the past 11 years is proof positive that the Board's approach has been the right one.

On that note, I would like to acknowledge Paul Benoit, President and CEO and his entire team for the magnificent job they have done. They have focused their energies on Phase II while still operating the airport to the highest possible standards.

For that, I say thank you.

So, what comes next?

Well, there is more work to do outside this space.

The old terminal will be demolished, and once that is done, we will be preparing surface for eventual paving of the new apron. That will allow us to open the remaining new gates and complete all exterior finishing work by the fall.

There are a few other projects on the books, including changes to the transborder pre-board screening and US Customs and Border Protection areas.

We will be enlarging the space and streamlining the screening points to make processing more efficient.

We will also introduce common use check-in kiosks in the coming months, and we will be gearing up to welcome the first Frankfurt flight in June.

The years since the Authority was formed have been busy and successful ones.

We look forward to many more of the same in the future, and hope that you will all be a part of the next chapters in the Airport Authority's story.

Thank you again for being here, and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Merci.