

## Message from Our Chair

Bram Tilroe



Hopefully some of us are getting their COVID inoculations and that will help us get back to some semblance of normalcy as well as increase aviation activity levels.

As reported in the last newsletter, the Alberta Aviation Council (AAC) provided input and a submission to the Golden airport feasibility study. The Golden town council has now voted to fully accept the consultant's report and will support and improve their airport. One more win for freedom to fly. You can read the decision and their 10-year plan for the airport by following this link. <http://golden.ca/What-s-New/Town-of-Golden-to-implement-Golden-Municipal-Airpo.aspx>

Vice-Chairman Bruce Sinclair and I flew to the Red Deer Forestry and Jasper airstrip to meet fellow aviators and promote the AAC. This has translated into additional members and requests for the Air Facilities Chart and directory provided as part of the membership. We plan to do further trips to reach out to other airports and aviators.

The AAC is now enhancing our marketing efforts and will be sourcing some aviation swag to help promote our organization. Our director in charge of marketing has created a Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/alberta.aviation.1> and we are also on Instagram and LinkedIn. Please follow us!

I have attended another Nav Canada Advisory Committee (NCAC) virtual meeting. We were briefed by senior management on various initiatives, issues, and concerns. One of note is the continued collaboration with the stakeholders relating to the many ongoing aeronautical studies on pos-

sible closures, reduction of staff and reduced services. They have made a commitment that once their staff has been briefed on the decisions, the stakeholders will be advised and copied on the decision going to Transport Canada for approval, which is a 60-day notice. We will give another update once more information is received.

Nav Canada is continually forecasting and trying to predict traffic in relation to staffing. The fact that all staff training has been cancelled will add to restrictions affecting GA. We urged that some training should be resumed as some facilities providing service to GA were already understaffed. One item that has slowed up this process is the many rumors circulating which



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has captured the attention of municipalities and politicians. This has kept their already reduced staff busy trying to answer questions and provide briefings to explain the process and therefore delaying the consultation and information gathering from the stakeholder.

There is concern that the staff reductions have started to affect the level of service at some GA airports. COPA has taken the initiative by stating that several of their members have been denied entry into Canadian control zones as a result of staff reductions by NAV CANADA. It is important that each pilot who is denied service by NAV CANADA to fill out the form that is available on the COPA website and submit it. If the direct link does not work try this link. [https://copanational.org/en/navcanada/?oly\\_enc\\_id=5801H9489778E4Z](https://copanational.org/en/navcanada/?oly_enc_id=5801H9489778E4Z) These denials

of service to General Aviation might see an increase as commercial operations grow with ongoing staff reductions by NAV CANADA.

The downturn in air traffic due to COVID 19 continues to affect Nav Canada's financial situation. All levels of the aviation industry are constantly lobbying the federal government for financial support as we are seeing dire consequences as a result of the pandemic.

Please check out our website and our newly established Facebook for updates on these situations and decisions.

### IN THIS ISSUE

## What Has the Council Been Doing Over the Past Few Months?

*additional information about each member's activities found within this newsletter*

**Kim van Vliet** - Involved with Invest Alberta and representing the Council at the Standing Committee of the House Commons presentation. (page 4)

**Bruce Sinclair** - Representing the Council at the Transport Canada, Canadian General Aviation Joint Steering Committee. (page 3)

**Brian Andrus** - Attended the virtual Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance conference (page 3). Working as the AAC representative with Richard Gotfried, SAAC Chair.

**Kendra Kincade, Steve Michoulas and Brian Andrus** - Organizing the six Webinar sessions (page 2)

**Sophia Wells** - Coordinating the AAC social media (page 3)

**Kendra Kincade, Michael Stimac, Rick Achtimichuk** - Working with Elevate Aviation on a grant submission (page 4)

## SAAC Update

### Nominations Closed

The Strategic Aviation Advisory Council has concluded the nomination process for potential council candidates. A large number of individuals submitted their applications from all sectors of aviation. Mr. Gotfried was impressed of the quality of the applicants and was pleased with the wide variety of talent and industry leaders across the province.

Selection of the SAAC delegates, the process has been completed, however the candidates must go through a review process by the government. Once they are formally approved by the government, the Chair of SAAC

will contact each member and the announcement of the team will be made public.

SAAC will provide recommendations to the Government for aviation strategies in Alberta. This council does not develop or dictate policy for the Government. It is an independent, industry driven body representing the aerospace and aviation business segments to provide direction for Alberta's aviation future. A significant emphasis will likely be placed on a post-COVID recovery plan along with many other important strategies at the provincial and possibly even at the national level.

## Crew Resource Management Course (CRM)

CRM course will be open to anyone who cares to attend.

### Rationale

CRM has been identified as one of the most effective methods of preventing accidents and incidents. It is now a required element of annual training for all commercial operators.

### Course Outline

Following some of the elements that are required training for 702, 703, and 704 commercial operations pay particular attention to single pilot operations. All participants will be assigned a case study to read prior to the course and attendees will be expected to identify areas where they feel CRM techniques could have prevented an accident.

**Facilitator:** Bruce Sinclair,  
AAC Director

**Date:** Late May or early June on a Saturday 09:00 to 16:00 (with a 1 hour lunch break)

**Location:** Villeneuve Airport

**Cost:** CRM course will be open to the general public. Free for anyone who wishes to attend virtually. There will be a \$20 stipend for those attending in person to defray the cost of coffee, snacks and lunch.

**Registration:** TBD

### Sponsors

Alberta Aviation Council is working with the following sponsors to deliver this course.

- Elevate Aviation
- Brian Murray
- Eldon Gjesdal
- COPA Flight 176

**More information to follow**

## AAC Webinar Series - Six Sessions

### Webinars

The Council has been working diligently on an offering of six seminars focusing on Alberta aviation and the aerospace environment from both a current and post-pandemic perspective. There are indications that once the pandemic is at its end, the industry will see a dramatic ramp up. It may not get to the pre-COVID activity levels but it will certainly gain momentum

The webinar series is sponsored by the Alberta Aviation Council and by Elevate Aviation. Elevate Aviation will host each session and the AAC will provide a moderator from its Board of Directors. The majority of the sessions will have a panel of three speakers and they will be one hour in length. The sessions are free and webinar links are incorporated into the title of each session. *(Note - Please do not activate the link until 10 minutes before the session.)*

**Kendra Kincade, Steve Michoulas** and **Brian Andrus** are organizing the event.



### Tentative Schedule

#### Thursday, April 8

- Building the Talent Pipeline for Pilots in Alberta

#### Thursday, April 15

- Aviation Strategy for Alberta's Future? (SAAC)

#### Thursday, April 22

- Building a Diverse Alberta Aviation Industry

#### Thursday, April 29

- Alberta Aviation Carriers

#### Monday, May 3

- Airports

#### Thursday, May 13

- Our Aviation Future - A Youth Perspective

More details can be found on our website at

[LINK](#)

## DIRECTOR ATTENDS VIRTUAL PNAAC CONFERENCE

### Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance (PNAAC)



Report by **Brian Andrus**

The virtual conference was very informative providing a wide range of topics from new technologies to forecasting potential aviation requirements. The 4-day conference was filled with sessions every hour. Day one had tours including one of the Boeing plant in Everett Washington. The conference was well organized and easy to navigate. They used an airport and terminal wings to facilitate navigation within the main stage presentations to exhibitors. AAC had a virtual booth courtesy in part of Western Development Corporation. There were also 'lounges' where individuals would meet to video conference via ZOOM.

A key takeaway from the conference was the continued demand for pilots. One session indicated the need to train pilots but highlighted the lack of space at aviation schools to be able to ramp up the training. The presenter

emphasized that our industry must promote and address the training of pilots immediately.

Several other sessions focused on electric technology advancements in aviation. One company in Canada, Harbour Air from Victoria, is part of a growing segment using the technology. The other major drive was for Boeing and Airbus to move towards zero emissions by 2035. There was an indication that the use of hydrogen would likely be part of emission reductions moving forward.

With the vaccination rollout underway, it will hopefully not take too long for aviation to recover. Many participants and exhibitors at the conference were in agreement that many people will be considering a "get out Dodge" trip and anticipate high demand for tourist travel. Forecasts for business travel are not as high as businesses have been operating virtually and the need to travel may not be as strong as in the past.

## AAC and Transport Canada



**Bruce Sinclair**, Vice Chair of the AAC, has volunteered to be part of the Transport Canada General Aviation Safety Campaign focus group. Bruce will keep the Council and our membership updated as this committee moves forward.

The General Aviation Safety Campaign (GASC) officially transitioned from the General Aviation Safety Program (GASP) on June 1, 2020. The objectives of GASP included an outline of the new organizational structure mirroring that of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Safety Program. Under this new structure, the GASC focus group members are being transitioned to the newly formed Canadian General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (CGAJSC).

The purpose of this committee is to assist in guiding and overseeing the General Aviation Safety Program, including but not limited to:

- providing guidance and oversight of the Canadian Safety Analysis Team (CSAT)
- providing linkage and alignment to the FAA GAJSC
- approval of a prioritized safety plan

Thanks, Bruce, for taking on this very important position.

## Casinos Update - COVID-19

With casinos opening and closing due to COVID restrictions, the next AAC casino will be pushed out into late 2021 or early 2022. Cancelled casinos will be rescheduled which will cause a ripple effect to all previously scheduled casinos. AGLC will advise us when we are scheduled to work.

## AAC Provides Some Relief

AAC became aware of a damaged roof at the Hanger Museum in Calgary. As the artifacts and aircraft were susceptible to weather damage, the Board decided to donate \$2,000 to assist in the repair of the roof.



## SEE OUR UPDATED WEBSITE

### AAC Updates

#### AAC Updated Website

The Council has updated our website with a few new features; details about our Directors and backgrounds, scholarship information and a page about Strategic Aviation Advisory Council (SAAC). Over time we will add additional features to compliment our work while keeping our membership informed.

#### Social Media - New

Our council has a new dimension to the social media and communication with our members. A new account has been set up by **Sophia Wells**, Director and Social Media coordinator has set up the AAC on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram. **Steve Michoulas**, Director, has established a LinkedIn presence. We hope you find these connections.  
AAC e-News Spring 2021

### Memberships

We would like to thank all of our members and your continued support during these unique times. Please support our Council by renewing your membership today.

The AAC is a registered charity and provides charitable receipts. If you are considering your 2020 charitable donation please consider the AAC before year end.

*We would like to thank our members for their continued support.*





## NEW DIRECTOR OF AVIATION AND AEROSPACE & LOGISTICS

### AAC Director Totally Engaged With Aviation



**Kim van Vliet** has been actively involved with many aviation and aerospace initiatives since our last newsletter. Along with her involvement with WaVv, ConverGX®, and the NATO Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG), she has been appointed as the new Director of Aviation and Aerospace & Logistics with Invest Alberta.

Alberta Aviation Council was invited by the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology to make a presentation to the House of Commons Committee on the Development and Support of the Aerospace Industry in Alberta. Kim has stepped forward to represent the Council at

this presentation. She has collected comments from many of our directors and other stakeholders and made the presentation. In her 7-minute presentation, she provided an oversight of our aviation and aerospace in Alberta.

Our province has some emerging technologies in defense development including Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) initiatives along with the development of alternate fuels for aviation. With Boeing and Airbus moving towards zero emissions by 2035, the evolving research with hydrogen in Alberta could be a strong area of focus.

Kim has also been quoted in several articles, and most recently, in the Canadian Defense Review discussing some of defense initiatives within our province.

## AAC PRESENTS AT STANDING COMMITTEE - OTTAWA

The Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology assesses and reports on the activities and spending of the members of the Innovation, Science and Economic Development portfolio including issues related to:

- industry and technology capability
- scientific research and development
- telecommunications policy
- investment, trade, small business and tourism
- rules and services that support the effective operation of the marketplace

Kim's presentation included the following commentary regarding next steps in Alberta and how assistance from the federal government is so critical.

Alberta has made Aviation & Aerospace a strategic pillar backed by new initiatives like the new Invest Alberta Corporation, and the newly created Strategic Aviation/Aerospace Adviso-

ry Council. These initiatives will also require collaboration from each level of government, including Ottawa.

Federally, there are certain policies that may inhibit the types of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) needed to develop a Centre of Excellence:

1. The SR&ED program eliminated capital expenditures. This has adversely affected advanced manufacturing industries like the Automotive and Aerospace Industries. An aerospace company, exporting its products around the world, requires significant capital expenditures. We would like these expenditures reinstated.
2. The Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy should be improved to better incentivize foreign direct investments into small Canadian companies.
3. An aerospace industry focused Indigenous Benefits Program is critical.

### Elevate and AAC Working Together

Elevate Aviation has been approved for a grant to conduct research and analysis of the labour market and prepare for future employment opportunities to meet each organization's recruitment goals - with a particular focus on diversity. AAC is one of the organizations who will be assisting the Elevate Aviation in its research.



The two main objectives of this project are to: (1) determine current and future labour market requirements to aid in the workforce recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and develop an action plan that addresses the gender imbalance in aviation, and (2) implement and ensure accountability of the action plan by facilitating communication and coordination between aviation companies.

Upon completion of the research and analysis, a strategic plan will be developed to prepare for future requirements. Elevate Aviation will initiate discussion between partners regarding industry challenges and labour market opportunities, as well as facilitate industry problem solving relating to labour market issues. Companies will implement the action plan and review their own policies and procedures.

Our directors working on this project are Rick Achtmichuk, Kendra Kincade and Michael Stimac. The webinar series, mentioned earlier in the newsletter, may provide additional information for this study.

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