

BRITISH COLUMBIA AVIATION COUNCIL



BACKGROUNDER

April 23, 2009

Introduction

In October 2008, the British Columbia Aviation Council (BCAC) appointed an Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Mike Matthews with Jack McGee, Mark Duncan and Sandra Stoddart-Hansen serving as members to review the status of the organization and making recommendations for its future.

The Ad Hoc committee report set out a new vision and governance structure for the organization along with a plan to restore membership in the Council. The Board accepted the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and on April 20, 2009, the Board elected Mike Matthews as Chair of the organization. At that same meeting, George Miller, Sandra Stoddart-Hansen and Diana Vuong, Brett Patterson, Mark Duncan and Jack McGee were also named to the Board of Directors to fill vacant board positions.

Redefined Vision

During its deliberations, the Ad Hoc committee interviewed a representative sample of the current membership and found strong support for the networking value of BCAC, the importance of the bursary program and the value of recognition given through events such as the "Silver Wings Awards".

The Council's potential to support the development of aviation in BC is greatly enhanced by its status as a "Charitable Organization". This is a significant stimulus in raising donations to the Bursary Funds that can then be applied to support new entrants to the aviation industry with funds for their training and development. The availability of qualified personnel continues to be a priority issue for the industry and is an area in which the BCAC is uniquely qualified to make a significant contribution.

The refined vision builds on these themes and creates an organization similar to a "Board of Trade" of Aviation. The primary objectives of the organization are as follows:

1. Promote, stimulate and encourage the safe and orderly development, growth and advancement of aviation and aerospace;
2. Engage in fund-raising activities in support of education and training of human resources to meet the skill requirements of aviation and aerospace;

3. Provide communications and information services to members and provide members with networking opportunities; and
4. Co-operate with any society, body or organization toward the attainment of the objects of the Council, and, if deemed advisable by the Board to welcome a member of such society, body or organization.

To achieve these objectives, the BCAC will become a “Virtual Organization” with only one part-time administrative staff member to maintain membership lists, support a dynamic web site and distribute information on behalf of the members.

BCAC advocacy initiatives will be carried out by committees with member companies serving as sponsors and lead agencies.

The Silver Wings Banquet will be the primary networking event of the organization and will be an annual event for major awards. Annual events such as a Golf tournament (this year celebrating 100 years of aviation) will be used as a fundraiser for both bursaries and administrative costs.

The Constitution and By-laws have been amended to reflect the refined vision and will allow for an expanded board of 15 members (minimum 12). Board members will be drawn from defined aviation sectors (similar to the Airport Authority model). The full Board will meet quarterly.

Committees will be struck to lead various networking activities or present positions on government policy.

The council will seek a broad representation from all aviation industry sectors as members and a target of at least 300 memberships has been set.

Web Site. This is the single most important component in re-connecting to the membership and engaging new members. It will be brought on line effective May 26, 2009 and will contain current information for the membership on aviation events in BC. <http://www.bcaviationcouncil.org>

Board Membership

The Board represents a broad cross-section of the aviation community. Any person regardless of affiliation or aviation experience may be nominated for Board membership based on their qualifications, abilities and readiness to serve. Board appointments will be set at three years as this amount of time is required to ensure stability for the organization. It is expected that there will be at least a 20 percent turnover in Board Membership due to natural resignations and industry movement. The following sectors would make up the majority of the Board:

1. Airports – Lower Mainland
2. Airports – Vancouver Island
3. Airports – North West Region
4. Airports – Eastern Region
5. Airports Peace Region
6. Airlines
7. Float Plan Operators

8. Helicopter Operators
9. Flight Training
10. Charter and Corporate Aviation
11. General Aviation
12. Manufacturing and Maintenance
13. Education Organizations
14. Aviation Consultants
15. Tourism
16. Aviation insurance

Current Board Members

Mike Matthews

Former Regional Director General Pacific, Transport Canada, RAF and RCAF aviation experience retiring at L/Col. Former Director of Planning for YVR Vistas Strategic Services. Currently Executive Consultant, InterVISTAS Consulting Inc.

Mark Duncan.

Former Regional Director General Pacific, Transport Canada, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Air Transportation Security Administration. Currently, President AeroEdge Consulting

Jack McGee

Former Colonel, Canadian Air Force and former Base Commander, CFB Comox, President of St Clair College, Windsor, ON., Currently President Justice Institute of BC.

George Miller

Former Colonel Canadian Air Force and Leader of the Snowbirds. Currently President of AVCON Consulting as operator of the Langley Airport. Leader of the Fraser Blues.
Lieutenant Colonel;

Brett Patterson.

Brett Patterson is currently the Director, Airside Operations for the Vancouver Airport Authority and Chairs the Airports Council International – Asia Pacific Regional Operations Safety Committee and was previously Chair of the Canadian Airports Council's Operations Safety and Technical Affairs Committee.

Sandra Stoddart-Hansen.

Former Regional Director, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada, Former President Alpha Aviation and General Manager Boundary Bay Airport. Currently President Ballantree Holdings Ltd.

Diana Vuong.

Former consultant with KPMG. Currently Comptroller for the Vancouver Airport Authority.

The Council's Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for May 26, 2009, the amended Constitution and Bylaws will be brought forward for member approval and if passed, will allow for the expansion of the board to 15 members.