



SPEAKER PROFILES

(in alphabetical order)



Brant Arnold-Smith, Program Manager-Security & Emergency Management, Metro Vancouver

Previously, Brant served as the Director of Security and Terminal Operations at the Victoria Airport Authority where he implemented innovative programs that improved airport operational efficiency, passenger facilitation, customer care, security, safety and emergency response. These initiatives helped Victoria International Airport earn the 2020 Airport Council International Award for Service Quality for Best Airport by Size and Region (under 2 million passengers per year in North America) and Best Hygiene Measures by Region (North America), as well as being named the most efficient airport in North America for its size in the Global Airport Performance Benchmark report compiled by the Air Transport Research Society in 2020. Furthermore, Brant held roles with the Vancouver Airport Authority with responsibility for regulatory compliance, Airside Operations, Terminal Operations, Aviation Security, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, and Emergency Management. Brant is passionate about aviation/airports and understands that the industry enhances sustainable economic development and tourism in the province of B.C. and brings many social benefits to the region. He is a Director on the BC Aviation Council Board.

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Heather Bell, Past Chair, BC Aviation Council & Principal, Bell Advisory Services

Principal of Bell Advisory Services and past General Manager of the Vancouver Flight Information Region (NAV CANADA). Heather attended Simon Fraser University, is a graduate of the Directors College through McMaster University, and has over 34 years of experience in the aviation industry. Heather's clients have included the Vancouver Airport Authority and MDA Corporation. Heather is BCAC's representative on NAV CANADA's Advisory Committee and remains an active member of the Council's Board.

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Anik Bertrand, General Manager, Vancouver Flight Information Region, NAV CANADA

Anik Bertrand is the General Manager of the Vancouver Flight Information Region (NAV CANADA). After attending Seneca College, Anik became a Flight Service Specialist with Transport Canada (TC) then NAV CANADA. Over the course of her 25+ years in the aviation industry, Anik has held several roles in those two organizations ranging from front-line positions to leading national groups and programs such as TC's Civil Aviation Contingency Operations (CACO) and NAV CANADA's National Operations Centre (NOC). More recently, Anik implemented NAV CANADA's Stakeholder Relations Program, which actively supports improving collaboration across the industry.

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Mike Brown, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Imperial College, London, UK

Mike has 35 years of experience in the airport industry in strategy development, master planning, forecasting and economic impact studies. He has worked at Canada's two largest airports, Toronto Pearson and Vancouver International, amongst others, and has a track record of innovation, analytical rigour and successful execution.

His research interests include the impact of airports on commercial property values, using social media and internet search patterns as demand forecasting tools, household spending patterns on air travel, the implications of climate change for airport planning, the impact of "disruptors" such as Airbnb on the demand for air travel and the catalytic economic impacts of airports.

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Michael Cohen, President, Aerial Evolution Association of Canada

Michael is a former airline captain (Boeing 737 NG) and holds a master's degree in aeronautical sciences from Embry-Riddle aeronautical university. He has served as chairman of air safety (airline pilots association: CJA), and as a member of the Air Canada emergency response team. Michael is active board member of unmanned systems Canada.

After leading Industrial Skyworks to nation-wide UAS flight approvals within Canada (2013-14), Michael authored the first nighttime commercial UAS approval (2016) issued by the federal aviation administration (USA). In 2016, Michael was named as an Ernst & Young entrepreneur of the year finalist, and in 2017, named by commercial UAV news as one of the 25 most influential people in the drone industry. Michael was nominated for and assumed the role of chair of USC-STC in October 2019.

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Alan Chapman, Director, RPAS Traffic Management, NAV CANADA

Alan Chapman is the Director for Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS Traffic Management) within NAV CANADA. Alan is accountable for shaping NAV CANADA's strategy for RTM, ensuring safe integration of UAVs and traditional aviation, supporting drone incursion initiatives, and the delivery of ANSP services to meet the Canadian State plan and associated regulations. Alan co-chairs, along with Transport Canada, the RTM Action Team, a consultative forum with stakeholders from across the RPAS industry, Alan also co-chairs the Trials Executive Steering Committee. Prior to joining NAV CANADA Alan has a long history of leadership roles supporting digitization, software solutions, innovation, and integration. In his career Alan has held executive roles in large technology organizations, such as IBM, early stage/start-up companies and has been an independent consultant.

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Blake Cushnie, Program Director, Service Delivery, NAV CANADA

Blake has almost 30 years of experience in aviation and Air Traffic Management, beginning as an Aircrew Officer with The Royal Navy and an Air Traffic Controller with NATS at London Heathrow before joining NAV CANADA. Subsequent roles were as a Terminal controller in Vancouver ACC, Control Tower Supervisor at CYVR and 2010 Winter Olympics Project team. Following a move to head office, Blake became the national lead on airspace modernisation and PBN and held roles with both ICAO and CANSO on various panels related to airspace & procedures, noise management and environmental initiatives. Before taking on his current role, Blake was General Manager of Toronto FIR.

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Geoff Dickson, President and CEO, Victoria International Airport

Geoff Dickson became President and Chief Executive Officer of Victoria International Airport in 2011. During Geoff's tenure, Victoria International Airport has won numerous awards for social responsibility, environmental management, financial stewardship, and customer service including Airports Council International Airport Service Quality award for best regional airport in North America in 2012, 2014 and 2020.

Geoff has over thirty years' experience in the airline and marine transportation industries with a background in marketing, business development, operations, customer service and finance. Geoff began his career with Canadian Airlines where he ultimately led the international marketing team in the development and expansion of the airline's global network. He returned home to Victoria to join BC Ferries as Vice-President of Marketing and Business Development where he oversaw all aspects of their commercial operations.

Geoff is a past member of the Destination Greater Victoria Board of Directors and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Airports Council (CAC) and Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.

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Haldane Dodd, Executive Director, Air Transport Action Group (ATAG)

Haldane is Executive Director at the Geneva-based Air Transport Action Group. This organisation, the only global grouping of players from across the aviation industry, brings together airports, airlines, air navigation service providers and aircraft and engine manufacturers to agree common goals. Its current mission is to provide a platform through which the aviation sector is working to reduce its climate change impact. ATAG works with funding members ACI, IATA, CANSO, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, Rolls-Royce, Safran and CFM to ensure aviation is able to respond to global decarbonisation and sustainability objectives.

Previously, Haldane was head of communications and advocacy at ATAG and communications manager with Airports Council International world headquarters where he worked on issues such as the environment, security and airport economics. A British native, Haldane also holds New Zealand citizenship and started his aviation career at the listed company Auckland International Airport Limited, which runs New Zealand's busiest airport. He has a background in broadcast media and holds a Bachelor of Communications Studies.

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Mark Duncan, Past Chair, BC Aviation Council and Chair, BC Aviation Council Scholarship Endowment Committee

Mark Duncan was a pilot with the Canadian Navy and has held senior positions in Transport Canada and was Chief Operating Officer for the Canadian Air Transportation Security Authority (CATSA). He has managed numerous major capital projects including the deployment of explosive detection systems at 89 Canadian airports. Over the last fifteen years, as President of Aeroedge Consulting Inc., he has worked with airports to deliver strategic plans, master plans, regulatory compliance, and capital improvement projects.

Contact Mark to set up or enhance your scholarship program with the BCAC.

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Noel Dwyer, National Manager, ATS Standards Delivery, NAV CANADA

Noel has over 25 years of experience in the provision of air traffic services with NAV CANADA, beginning as an air traffic controller and progressing through various roles toward his current position of National Manager, ATS Standards Delivery. He has managed the ATS standards related regulatory change required for numerous technology-based applications in Canadian airspace and is currently working toward the implementation of the Canadian ADS-B mandate.

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Jim Ferrier, Director, Aviation Operations, Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA)

Growing up with a dream of being a pilot, Jim started flying in 1982 at age 16 after receiving an Air Cadet gliding scholarship. A private pilot license followed in 1983 and a commercial license and multi-rating in 1989. In 1992 Jim began a career in Air Traffic Services with Transport Canada as a Flight Service Specialist. For 13 years Jim served in many Flight Service roles in Airport Advisory Stations, Flight information Centers and Head Office. During this time Jim also added an instrument rating and spent several years as a sky dive pilot in his spare time. Following an opportunity to move into Information Management as an operational Subject Matter Expert Jim became a Manager in NAV CANADA eventually retiring as the Director, Aeronautical Information Management and Flight Operations. Jim's passion for aviation has always been strong and now continues as the Director, Aviation Operations with COPA.

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The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for British Columbia

Rob Fleming was elected to represent the riding of Victoria-Hillside in 2005 and was re-elected to represent Victoria-Swan Lake in 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2020. In 2020, he was appointed Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, and formerly served as Minister of Education. Rob served as the Official Opposition critic for education and was the critic for the environment in the 39th Parliament (2009-2013). Previous to that he served as the critic for advanced education and tourism. In the 38th Parliament (2005-2009) he served as Chair of the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Deputy Chair of the Select Standing Committee on Education and Deputy Chair of the Special Committee to Appoint an Ombudsperson.

Prior to his election as an MLA, Rob served two terms as a Victoria City Councillor. He chaired the city's finance committee and represented Victoria at the Capital Regional District, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, the Capital Region Housing Corporation and Tourism Victoria. As a City Councillor, Rob was a leading advocate for public transit and affordable housing. He was instrumental in the creation of the Capital Region's Affordable Housing Trust and the region's transportation plan.

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Dave Frank, Executive Director, BC Aviation Council

For over four years, Dave has been the Executive Director of the BC Aviation Council. He joined the organization because of his love for the people in aviation and aerospace - there is a real "can do" attitude.

He is also a strong proponent of the future of our industry thanks to the quality of today's youth. Along these lines, Dave is an Adjunct Professor teaching the senior year Air Transportation course in the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia.

Before BCAC, Dave was Director, Marketing and Communication, for St. John Ambulance-BC and Chair of their National Marketing Committee. He has been a senior executive with a regional freight and air ambulance operator and founded Canada's first multi-modal foreign trade zone as well as a substantial international consulting firm focusing on transportation and social-economic development. Before that, he built the Industry Productivity Analysis Group within the (now) Sauder School of Business.

Contact Dave for any conference issues you may be experiencing or to increase your involvement with the BCAC.

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Frédéric Gagnon, Shift Manager, Vancouver Area Control Centre, NAV CANADA

Fred Gagnon has over 22 years of experience with NAV CANADA. He started his career as an Operational Flight Service Specialist at multiple Flight Service Stations (FSS) and Flight Information Centres (FIC) before moving to Head Office in a non-operational role. He took on a management role as a Shift Manager in the National Operations Centre in 2012. The West Coast was calling, and Fred moved to British Columbia in 2016 where he became the Manager for Kamloops FSS & FIC. In 2019, he moved to the Vancouver ACC as a Shift Manager. Fred is currently the acting Manager for Vancouver Tower & Terminal as well as the Flight Information Region's lead for the Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project initiative. Outside of work, if not on a trip, he can usually be found on basketball courts around Vancouver, having been a referee for the last 17 years.

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Ken Gallant, Vice-President, Operations, Victoria International Airport

Ken is responsible for leading a multifaceted operation that includes Airside, Groundside, and Terminal Operations, the Airport's Security Department, and the Environment and Sustainability Department. In addition to his role with the Victoria Airport Authority, Ken is the past Chair of the Canadian Airport Council's Operations, Safety and Technical Affairs Committee, a past member of the Airport's Council International-North America Operations, Planning, Safety, and Infrastructure Steering Group, and is a member of the Destinations Greater Victoria Sustainability Committee. Ken has worked in the airline and airport sectors for the past twenty years.

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Mark Gallant, Director, Flight Operations, Conair, Aerial Fire Fighting Operator

Mark has an extensive aviation background beginning in 1981 and acquiring over 13,000 flight hours on various aircraft types that include the Boeing 767, Boeing 737, Airbus A330, and Airbus A320. In addition to his flight experience, he has acquired over 25 years of aviation management experience including the position of Vice-President, Flight Operations, for Skyservice Airlines, First Air and Sunwing Airlines.

Mark joined Conair in 2016 and spent three years as the Chief Pilot before taking on his current role as Director, Flight Operations. He has a successful track record in worldwide operations, strategic planning, and establishing high performance management teams to manage infrastructures that range from the basic, to state-of-the-art global operations.

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Marcelo Garcia, Senior Director, InterVISTAS Consulting Inc.

Marcelo brings over 15 years of experience in regulated industries and government advisory, including 10 years in aviation. He has advised the Minister of Transport on the competition aspects of airline joint ventures, as well as foreign ownership limits, wet leasing, and airports' governance. He was also nominated as Canada's alternate representative to ICAO's Air Transportation Regulation Panel (ATRP). More recently, he advised Qatar Airways and the Government of Qatar on a wide array of market access and global regulatory issues, including regional airspace disputes and bilateral air negotiations in key markets. He was a member of the Qatar negotiating team that secured a comprehensive air transport agreement with the European Union in 2019 – tackling historically contentious issues such as fair competition, environmental, labour issues – and a landmark agreement with the U.S. government on the issue of subsidies and financial transparency.

Marcelo holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from McGill University's Institute of Air and Space Law in Montreal, Canada. He is also fluent in French and Spanish.

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James Hall, Operations Manager, Kelowna International Airport, BCAC Airports Committee Chair

In his position at YLW, James is responsible for Environmental, Airside Regulatory, Groundside Operations, as well as the Passenger Experience in the terminal operations. In addition to his role at YLW, James is very active in the Airports Council International Environment and Operations committees and was previously Chair of the CAC Operations and Technical Affairs Committee.

James is passionate about aviation and passionate in the advancement of Carbon reduction strategies.

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JR Hammond, Executive Director of CAAM & Founder of Rhizome Aero

JR Hammond is the Executive Director of CAAM, the Canadian Advanced Air Mobility Consortium. CAAM is a federal not-for-profit organization that acts as the catalyst for the new Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry in Canada. Advanced Air Mobility is defined as unlocking Zero-Emission (Electric & Hydrogen) Aircraft to operate in Canada both as flying vehicles and larger commercial airplanes. AAM operations focus on moving people, goods and services in both piloted and remotely piloted aircraft on intra-urban and inter-regional routes.

JR is also the Managing Partner and Founder of Rhizome Aero based in Vancouver, BC, with a Canada-wide operational mandate. Rhizome Aero is Canada's first zero-emission aviation fund uplifting environmental, social, and inclusivity investments into the Advanced Air Mobility ecosystem.

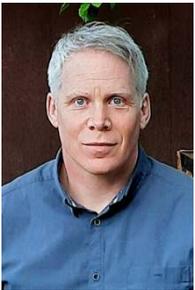
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Jamie Johnson, Regional Director, Transport Canada, Civil Aviation - Pacific Region

British-born Jamie gained his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, before joining the Royal Air Force as an Engineering Officer. He spent the first few years in front-line operations with a Tornado fast-jet squadron including combat deployments. He spent subsequent tours managing maintenance and logistics for the Lockheed C-130 Hercules fleet. After completing a master's degree in Air Vehicle Design, Jamie became a structural integrity specialist competing successive tours in both the UK and Canada, before once again returning to front-line operations. After completing his military service, Jamie moved permanently to Canada working as Program Manager for Marshall Aerospace in Ottawa before relocating to British Columbia to become Program Director at Cascade Aerospace in Abbotsford. In 2016, Jamie joined the Federal Public Service as an aviation specialist for National Research Council before joining Transport Canada in January 2018.

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Robert Keen, Senior Wildfire Officer – Aviation, BC Wildfire Service

Rob has worked for the BC Wildfire Service for 30 years, starting in northern BC and moving to the Coastal Fire Centre in 2008. Rob was previously the Senior Wildfire Officer – Fire Operations for the Coastal Fire Centre before moving into his current position within the Aviation program in the fall of 2020. Rob has experience as a Regional Air Branch coordinator (focus on Helicopter Operations) in addition to other command and operational roles during incident response.

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Heather McCarley, Chair, BC Aviation Council

Heather is the Director, Regulatory Operations for Vantage Airport Group in Vancouver, drawing on 33 years of experience in the aviation industry to provide support and subject matter expertise to the Vantage network of airports. She started in aviation with her private pilot's license at the Boundary Bay Airport, working for the airport operator. Later, she spent 22 years with the Vancouver Airport Authority in a number of roles, with responsibility for operations, emergency management, community relations, airfield maintenance, winter operations, regulatory compliance, and safety management systems. In 2017 she was seconded to an interim role as the Managing Director for the Kamloops Airport, where she enjoyed the close connection to the Kamloops Airport team, business partners and the Kamloops community, before transitioning to Vantage Airport Group.

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Greg McDougall, CEO, Harbour Air

Starting his career as a young bush pilot, then founding Harbour Air Seaplanes, through continuous expansion of the company Greg has built the world's largest all-seaplane operation. His extensive personal support of the aviation industry and community projects has earned wide acclaim for both himself and his company.

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A. Steve Michoulas, Founder and Principal, Avra Law

Steve was called to the BC Bar in 2003 and has deep industry experience in aviation and commercial real estate. Prior to founding Avra Law and spending time as a partner at a major national law firm, Steve spent 8 ½ years at the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) as Director, Legal Services, where he oversaw virtually all aspects of airport matters including major real estate developments and non-aeronautical revenue projects, terminal concessions, airside and terminal operations, procurement, jurisdictional matters, and competition – among many other things. Steve has advised multiple airports regarding land development, flight plan protection, fueling, competition, corporate governance, constitutional matters, as well as construction projects.

Steve is a board member with the BC Aviation Council and is its Chair, Governance Committee. Steve is also involved with the Alberta Aviation Council, the Worldwide Airport Lawyers Association, and he spent a number of years on the Legal Affairs Committee of Airports Council International (North America).

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Dr. Val Miftakhov, Founder and CEO, ZeroAvia

Val Miftakhov is the Founder & CEO of ZeroAvia, a company developing a hydrogen-electric powertrain for aviation as the only scalable solution for tackling the industry's growing climate change impact. Val is an avid helicopter and airplane pilot, and a serial sustainable transportation entrepreneur - his previous company eMotorWerks has developed the World's leading platform for EV battery aggregation to provide grid services and was acquired in 2017. Prior to that, Val held a number of senior business and product positions at Google and McKinsey & Company and was a nuclear researcher at Stanford Linear Accelerator. Val holds a Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University.

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Trevor Mitchell, President and CEO, Helicopter Association of Canada (HAC)

Trevor was introduced as the incoming President and CEO of the Helicopter Association of Canada during the organization's annual conference, which ran virtually from November 22 to 24. Mitchell will succeed Fred Jones, who has served as the leader of Helicopter Association of Canada (HAC) since the Fall of 2008. Jones and Mitchell during the association's 2021 virtual conference spent an hour discussing priorities with members, including plans for HAC's important sector committees, which stood at eight prior to the pandemic. Mitchell most recently served as a Heliport Planner with WSP based in Regina, Saskatchewan, while also leading his consultancy specializing in rotary-wing operations and infrastructure. He also served as Operations Manager, YQR, with Strategic Aviation and as a Base Director with STARS in Regina. In 2013, Mitchell flew as a line pilot for the Winnipeg Police Service, after he spent more than seven years with Arrow Helicopters, including time as its Operations Manager. He also served as a base pilot with Kokanee Helicopters from late 2004 to 2005.

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Bryce Moreira, Senior Wildfire Officer, Aviation, BC Wildfire Service

Bryce has been with the BC Wildfire Service for over a decade. He spent 6 years working in the Aviation Section (focusing on helicopter operations) at the Kamloops Fire Centre and was the section lead for the previous 20 months. Bryce recently moved over to the Provincial Wildfire Coordination Centre in Kamloops as the Aviation Operations Officer, primarily focusing on helicopter operations. During the summer months, Bryce operates as an Air Operations Branch Director on an Incident Management Team. In this role, he is responsible for all aircraft operations on the fireline.

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Anthony Norejko, President and CEO, Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA)

The Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA) named Anthony, a former CBAA vice chair and well-respected member of the business aviation community, as its new President and CEO, effective August 20, 2018. As well as his leadership in business aviation as Director Aviation and Chief Pilot for Walmart Canada, and later as the principle of his own aviation-service company, CrewSked, Anthony also demonstrated his financial and strategic planning acumen as founder of Money Upstream Coaching and as Vice President Strategy and Operations, North at FirstService Residential.

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David Nowzek, BC Aviation Council Director and Member Conference Committee

Dave has spent some 45 years in the aviation industry as a pilot and also held management positions in both fixed and rotary wing IFR and VFR operations. After 24 years flying and managing throughout Alberta, NWT and British Columbia, he joined Transport Canada in 1988. During his 24 years with the department, he held several management positions until assuming the position of Regional Director, Civil Aviation for the Pacific Region. He retired from the department in 2012.

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Lars Olsson, Conference Chair and Director, Airside Operations and Safety, Victoria International Airport

With over 25 years of experience in the aviation industry, Lars is currently the Director, Airside Operations and Safety with the Victoria Airport Authority. His career started as a baggage handler before moving into de-icing operations and working apron advisory at Toronto Pearson. Lars transitioned to operations management and has gained experience in construction coordination, regulatory compliance, airfield maintenance, security operations, emergency response, and safety management. Prior to moving to Victoria, Lars worked at the Hamilton International Airport as the Senior Manager, Airport Operations.

Lars sits on the Canadian Airport Council's Operations, Safety, and Technical Affairs Committee, he is an Auditor for the Canadian Airports National Audit Program and is the current chair of the BCAC Conference Planning Committee.

Contact Lars for any conference issues that you are experiencing.

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Chris Phelan, Vice-President, Government and Industry Affairs, Canadian Airport Council (CAC)

Previous to this role, Chris was the Vice President of Aviation Security and Industry Affairs. He oversaw airport security policy and regulations for passengers and cargo, international air policy and other issues affecting airport security and facilitation. In addition to these duties, he also served as Committee Secretary to the CAC's Small Airports Caucus and the Security Committee.

Prior to joining the CAC in June 2011, Chris worked as a consultant for an Ottawa-based government relations and public affairs firm. There he provided political, strategic and public policy advice to clients on a wide variety of issues, including product defense, intellectual property and copyright legislation, electronic product stewardship, and energy transportation and generation. Chris is a graduate of the University of King's College, where he earned an honours degree in political science and history. He also holds a master's degree in political science from Northeastern University.

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Cathy Press, CEO and Owner, Chinook Helicopters, and Vice-Chair BC Aviation Council

Since becoming the first female helicopter flight instructor in Canada, Cathy has been driving the aviation industry forward. She has grown Chinook Helicopters to be an internationally-recognized flight school specializing in helicopter and aeroplane pilot training. Cathy's current focus is on the development of simulation products to assist in high-level training programs aiming to become a national leader in VR flight simulation training. Cathy completed her first solo at 16-years of age and is currently the only person in Canada that holds a "Transport Canada Pilot Examiner" status in both aeroplanes and helicopters.

Cathy acts as Chair for the flight training committee for Helicopter Association of Canada (HAC) and is a Board Member for the International Women's Federation (IWF). In 2019, Cathy was named one of "Women's Executive Network: Top 100 Canada's Most Powerful Women" to add to her already impressive list of aviation accomplishments and awards.

Cathy has always taken a hands-on approach in supporting individuals who are starting both aviation and business careers. She continues to be passionate about helping others to reach their goals as an educator and mentor. Cathy is Co-Chair of the Flight Training Unit (Flight Schools) Initiative.

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Ed Ratuski, Managing Director, Kamloops Airport, Vantage Airport Group

Ed is Managing Director of Kamloops Airport Ltd., for Vantage Airport Group. Since joining Vantage in 2007, he has had the opportunity to lead multiple disciplines in the operational delivery of complex airport development programs as well as leading corporate response to operational, growth, and facility needs. Ed's experience spans the airport management spectrum and international borders: from leading the activation and operational readiness of greenfield air terminal development: to overseeing time-critical design and fit out works: to developing long term facility preservation and service needs. He continues to lend his airport terminal development and operations expertise to a number of Vantage network airports as Managing Director of the Cyprus Airports Operating Group and is also a proud member of the redevelopment team for the innovative and award-winning Terminal B at LaGuardia Airport.

Ed is a graduate of the University of North Dakota's Center for Aerospace Sciences. Prior to joining Vantage, he worked primarily in airport operations management with both Transport Canada and the Winnipeg Airports Authority.

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Philip Reece, CEO, InDro Robotics, Salt Spring Island

With a background in tech start-up and commercial aviation, the world of unmanned aerial systems was a logical one for Philip, the founder of InDro Robotics. Fresh from the world of commercial general aviation, as the CEO of a seaplane airline flying 16 flights a day with a fleet of De Havilland DhC-2 "Beavers", Philip noticed many of the industry flights for clients in construction, mining, forestry and wildlife could be carried out by UAVs. From there it was a matter of finding the smartest people in the industry and building up a team that could set about bringing the professionalism of commercial aviation to the burgeoning world of "drones".

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Danielle Rehm, Technical Team Lead-Flight Operations Standards, Civil Aviation, Transport Canada

Danielle is the Pacific Region representative for airspace coordination and oversight. Her portfolio includes airspace management during Emergency Operations such as forest fires, natural disasters and threats to public safety and security. Danielle attended Simon Fraser University and the Justice Institute of BC, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Justice and Public Safety Leadership. She has over 35 years of experience in the aviation industry, including time spent as a commercial pilot and flight instructor, and 25 years as a Civil Aviation Safety Inspector with Transport Canada.

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Sam Samaddar, Airport Director, Kelowna International Airport

In 1988, Sam commenced his airport career at Vancouver International Airport where he held several positions including Airport Duty Manager and Superintendent of Ground Transportation. In 1992, Sam assumed the position of Superintendent Airport Operations at Kelowna International Airport and has held numerous positions, including Assistant General Manager jobs for both Airport Operations and Airport Development while achieving his International Accredited Airport Executive designation in 1997.

In July 2008, Sam was appointed the Airport Director for the Kelowna International Airport – one of the top ten airports in Canada serving just over 2 million passengers in 2019. As Airport Director, Sam currently is a board member of Tourism Kelowna, Airports Council International – World Executive Committee, and Chair of Airports Council International – North America.

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Danny Sitnam, President & CEO, Helijet

As a helicopter pilot and entrepreneur, Danny has built Helijet International to become the world's largest scheduled helicopter passenger service, also offering rotary and fixed wing aircraft for charter and medical services. Danny is known for leadership, professionalism, and his interest in offering growth opportunity for his employees.

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Sandra Stoddart-Hansen, Co-Principal, Ballantree Consulting Group, Past Chair BC Aviation Council, and Member, BCAC Scholarship Endowment Committee

Sandra worked with Transport Canada for twelve years during her twenty-year career with the federal public service. In Ottawa, she served as Director of Aviation Strategic Planning, R&D and Policy Coordination and, in Winnipeg, as Regional Director of Transport Canada. During her tenure with Transport, she also worked with Air Traffic Services. Sandra was the first President of Alpha Aviation during and following the company's acquisition of the Boundary Bay Airport in 2004. Sandra established and ran her own consulting firm doing strategic planning, transition management and airport planning. Sandra is the Past Chair of the British Columbia Ferry Authority, the ownership entity of BC Ferry Services. Always active in the volunteer sector, Sandra has been proud to be part of the BCAC organization and has served as Chair of Dress for Success Vancouver and Chair of BCS 2555, a Coal Harbour Strata Corporation.

Sandra is keen to see the Scholarship Endowment fund reach its one-million-dollar goal and would be happy to discuss how you can participate!

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Timothy Swail, Vice-President, Regional Aviation and APU Product Marketing & Sales, Pratt & Whitney Canada

Timothy Swail was named Vice-President, Regional Aviation and APU Product Marketing & Sales in February 2021. In this role, Timothy focusses on next generation technologies to serve regional and commercial aviation customers, and customers of our auxiliary power unit (APU) business. He is also responsible for the company's sales, marketing and in-service strategy in China.

Prior to his current position, Timothy was Vice President, Customer Programs, where he led the Customer Service Engineering organization for all product lines and front-line support, including CFFirst and Field Operations organizations. He has consistently championed P&WC's reputation for excellence and exceptional levels of customer service. Timothy joined Pratt & Whitney Canada in 1989 as an engineer. He assumed positions of increasing responsibility within the Engineering organization before being appointed Director, Engine Development Programs, in May 2010. Timothy holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

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Geoffrey Tauvette, Executive Director, Canadian Council for Sustainable Fuels

Geoffrey is a commercial aviation and engineering professional at the forefront of airline sustainability with more than 25 years of experience integrating aviation fuel procurement, environment and climate risk management, giving him a unique perspective in advancing the production and use of sustainable aviation fuels and decarbonizing aviation in Canada.

Geoffrey has been instrumental in leading airline consortiums who own and operate aviation fuel and de-icing infrastructure at large airports in North America including establishing Canada's first large-scale closed-loop glycol spraying and recycling facility and launching a biojet challenge in the province of Alberta.

Geoff holds a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the Universities of Ottawa and McGill and is a Fellow of the Alberta Energy Futures Lab, a sustainability-driven, innovation-focused initiative whose vision is to accelerate the clean transition of Alberta's energy system.

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Thomas Urbanovitch, Shift Manager Vancouver ACC, NAV CANADA

Thomas has extensive experience in and knowledge of the aviation industry. He has spent much of his career with airlines, most recently as a Chief Dispatcher at WestJet. Thomas joined NAV CANADA as a Shift Manager in 2020 and holds a key role in the BC Wildfires Working Group.

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Sarah Venn, Conference Speakers Manager & Administrative Operations Officer, Victoria International Airport

Sarah joined the Victoria Airport Authority in 2011 starting out as an Administrative Assistant and has since moved into the role of Administrative Operations Officer supporting Airside Operations and Safety at Victoria International Airport. Sarah is part of multiple internal and external committees such as the SMS working Group, Aviation Safety Audit Committee, Runway Safety Team, Canadian Aviation Safety Week, YYJ Noise Committee, ACI Noise Committee and is also the Secretary and Treasurer for PSAC-UCTE Local 20209.

Speakers to supply copy of any presentation files before conference and check in upon arrival with Sarah.

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Tamara Vrooman, President and CEO, Vancouver International Airport

Tamara is an award-winning leader, known for her exemplary track record leading large, complex institutions in both the private and public sectors and her bold positions on sustainability and inclusion. Prior to joining YVR as President & CEO, she served for nine years on YVR's Board and for 13 years as the President & CEO of Vancity, Canada's largest community credit union, transforming the business into a global reference point for values-based banking. She currently serves as Simon Fraser University's 12th Chancellor, chairs the board of the Rick Hansen Foundation and is the recipient of the Order of British Columbia (2019), Peter Loughheed Award for Leadership in Public Policy (2016) and BC CEO of the Year Award - Major Private Company, Business in Vancouver (2015), among many other citations.

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Dr. Andrew Weaver, Professor, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of Victoria (UVic)

Dr. Weaver was the Canada Research Chair in Climate Modelling and Analysis until 2015 when he assumed leadership of the BC Green Party. Dr. Weaver returned to the University of Victoria after completing two successful terms as an MLA.

Dr. Weaver has authored (or co-authored) over 200 peer-reviewed papers in climate, meteorology, oceanography, earth science, policy, education and anthropology journals. Dr. Weaver was a Lead Author in the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th scientific assessments. He was the Chief Editor of the Journal of Climate from 2005-2009.

Dr. Weaver is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Among his many other prestigious awards and honours (too numerous to list here), Dr. Weaver and the Minister of the Environment, Hon. George Heyman, received the "2020 Clean 16" and "Clean 50" awards for outstanding contributions to sustainable development and clean capitalism in Canada. In 2008, Dr. Weaver was appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

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