

Let's ensure our aerospace industry soars...

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

The 3rd annual Peterborough Aerospace Summit was held recently at the Peterborough Airport. What we know about the aerospace industry is that it's a growing field with many opportunities for our workforce. In fact, worldwide, the staff shortages anticipated in aerospace are staggering. The industry says it will be short 800,000 pilots, 750,000 maintenance staff and about the same number in cabin crew. The positive news is that with Seneca and Fleming College along with Trent University and the Holy Cross High Skills Major program in aviation, Peterborough is in a good position to help fill the need.

It's important to recognize the role, the return on government investment and impact the airport has in our local economy. In 2017, 730 people were employed at the airport; up from 422 in 2008. The growth in jobs is also reflected in economic impact with the airport generating \$74 million in GDP in 2017 and supporting 60,000 airplane movements. Most of the work is in maintenance, refurbishment and overhaul (MRO) of airplanes and the supply chain that supports those companies.

The Peterborough Airport is also making its mark as one of 11 regional airports in the Southern



Ontario Airport Network (SOAN). The group is working toward understanding and planning to help Pearson International Airport as it reaches capacity. Across the network, the regional airports support 55,000 jobs in Ontario and pay about \$2.3 billion in taxes.

But at a time when the industry is taking off, there are also some barriers that need to be addressed.

Training the workforce

Experts believe building a workforce will require more co-op opportunities and awareness of the industry and potential jobs at an earlier age, perhaps Grades 5 or 6. Part of the panel discussion at the Summit identified the various types of work available in the industry from pilots to maintenance crew to finance managers, marketers and HR staff.

That said, for those looking to enter a growth industry, Canada has the 7th largest aerospace industry in the world, with 29% of Canadian aerospace jobs in Ontario. 95% of Ontario aerospace companies have fewer than 100 employees, which means an employee can potentially get in on the ground floor. These are also the types of companies that Canada needs to scale and grow in burgeoning industries with high-paying jobs.

Recently, Flying Colours Corporation announced its \$30 million expansion which will include an additional 60 jobs.

Filling in the last mile

In many cases, the regional airports are geographically set apart from the community they are connected to, including Peterborough. There

are currently no transit stops to this local employment hub and employees and students are walking and cycling to work. Considerations for new transit routes will help this economic driver continue to grow and open the doors for employees. Several committees examining transportation in the region have identified this issue as one that requires attention.

At the federal chamber level there is a lot of discussion around airports with a series of policy resolutions on the books from how they operate and can access funding to improving security wait times. That these discussions are constant is an indication that there is a role for air in our transportation mix and now is the time to ensure it soars.

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GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

Chamber looking for feedback on Bill 148

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce is looking for feedback on the impact of Bill 148 on the business community.

We've built a short two question survey that is looking for what has changed, if anything, in the past eight months since the legislation came into effect.

We are also asking for input to present to the provincial government should they reopen

or solicit feedback on potential changes to the legislation.

Businesses, please take a moment to fill out the survey. It will help us best serve the advocacy needs of our business community.

The survey can be found here:
<http://bit.ly/Bill148Survey>

or on the Peterborough Chamber blog: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog



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Event Calendar



THURSDAY,
September 27th, 2018

The Benefits of Strategic Planning

Personal Touch Banquet Hall
11:15am – 1:30pm

Details: Our keynote speaker is Ali Lajevardi, Director of BDC Advisory Services. We'll also hear from panelists Rhonda Barnet (CEO & Co-President of Steelworks Design Inc), Jonathan Bennett (CEO of Laridae Communications) and Matt Tanguay (Co-Founder of Percheron Plastic Inc).

Register online:
peterboroughchamber.ca/events



WEDNESDAY
October 3rd, 2018

The Evinrude Centre
911
Monaghan Road



12:00pm - 7:00pm

Details: Connect. Experience. Discover your local business community.

The LoveLocalPtbo Business Expo is the premiere business showcase event in the Peterborough region, celebrating all of the amazing businesses operating in Peterborough.

Sponsor: Signarama Peterborough



THURSDAY,
October 4th, 2018

2018 Mayoral Debate

The Venue PTBO
286 George Street N
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Details: Mayoral candidates incumbent Daryl Bennett and Diane Therrien will answer questions from the Chamber, Downtown Business Improvement Area, and the Women's Business Network. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet candidates from all city wards.

Cost: Free



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PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER

Member Milestones

- SDP Communications has moved. You can connect with them at their new office at 37 Morrison Road in Eldorado, ON.
- Diatom Consulting is hosting a series of workshops on Sept 25th about new federal regulations aimed at making Canada's food system safer. The Safe Food for Canadians Regulations come into effect January 1, 2019. These rules will have an impact on local food manufacturers.

- Cody & James Chartered Professional Accountants is hosting an appreciation BBQ and fundraiser on Tuesday, Sept 25th from 11am - 2pm at their office at 260 Milroy Drive. Money raised from the BBQ and dunk tank will go to the Peterborough Humane Society.
- Save the date April 4 & 5, 2019 for the Peterborough Emergency Management and Safety Forum. Topics will include business continuity. Planning partners include: Peterborough Police Service, Peterborough Emergency Management, Peterborough County OPP, Peterborough Paramedics, Peterborough Public Health, Fleming College, Trent University, G4S Secure Solutions, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce and The Loomex Group.

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Gord McFarland has joined our Peterborough team, and we couldn't be happier. As a business advisor and community volunteer, Gord believes that strong relationships lead to strong results.

Looking for a team player to help you reach your business goals?
Contact Gord.

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