**ATAC’s 2015 National Aviation Conference**

ATAC’s 2015 National Aviation Conference and Tradeshow was a vibrant success. The 500 delegates were very pleased with the quality of workshops, and with keynote speakers including Angus Watt from CATSA and Tony Tyler from IATA. The overall atmosphere was upbeat and the not-soon-to-be-forgotten Gala Dinner entertainment was beyond description. Many commented that this was our best conference ever. Such words are certainly appreciated by the ATAC team that works relentlessly to put together this annual event.

The National Aviation Conference included our Annual Meeting where the Chair Tracy Medve, the Honorary Treasurer Joe Sparling and the President John McKenna all gave their annual reports. Board elections are also held during the meeting. Members are asked to vote on a slate of directors either seeking election or re-election to the Board. This year, the slate of nominees selected by the different member categories had a total of six candidates for election to the Board.

In the Large Carrier Category, Jim Rogers of Flair Airlines, Tracy Medve of KF Aerospace, and Calvin Ash of Provincial Airlines were the nominees selected by their category peers. In the Regional Carrier Category, Philip Earle was the nominee selected by those Members. The Training Organizations had nominated Joan Williams of Ottawa Aviation Services and Dan Glass of Mitchinson Flight Centre. These candidates were unanimously approved by the assembled members.

In addition to the six elected directors, the Industry Partners had selected Naomi Nind of Parlee McLaws of Calgary and Patrick Coulter of FlightSafety Canada of Downsview for appointment to the Board. Once the newly elected Board appointed the Industry Partner nominees, its most important mandate was to appoint a new Chair. Heather McGonigal of Transwest Air in Saskatoon was appointed as the new ATAC Chair. At 38 years old, Heather is the second youngest Chair ever, only a few months older than the late Jim Glass who, also from Transwest Air, was chair from 1999 to 2000.

The new Board then created the various Board Committees, the most important being the Executive Committee and the Audit Committee. The Board also creates the Compensation Committee, responsible for overseeing matters relating to the Personal Compensation Policy of the Association and the President’s annual review, and the Nominating Committee, which oversees the following year’s Board nomination and election process.

Along with the new Chair Heather McGonigal, the 2015-16 Executive Committee is made up of First Vice Chair Steve Hankirk of Canadian North in Calgary, Second Vice Chair Quentin Smith of Pacific Coastal in Richmond, BC, Honorary Treasurer Jacques Monast of the CQFA in Montreal, Honorary Secretary Eric Edmondson of Air Georgian in Mississauga, and Past Chair Tracy Medve of KF Aerospace in Kelowna.

ATAC sincerely thanks outgoing directors Bruce MacDougall of Paterson, MacDougall of Toronto, Tom Ray of the Regina Flying Club, Bob Lamoureux of EnviroTech Aviation in Nisku, AB, JC Tewfik of Discovery Air Technical Services of Montreal, and Serge Charron of Pascan Aviation in St-Hubert for their loyal service to ATAC.

We congratulate Joan Williams for being inducted as an ATAC Lifetime Honoree for her significant contribution to the improvement of the Association and the Canadian air transport industry, and to Joe Sparling for receiving the Jim Glass Humanitarian Award, intended to reward those in the aviation community who best exemplify Jim’s generosity and involvement in his community. Congratulations also go to InteliSys Aviation Systems for winning the Hope Air Outstanding Philanthropist Award.

This year, ATAC circulated Delegate and Exhibitor Satisfaction Surveys and promised to raffle a $100 prepaid credit card among the completed surveys. Delegates and Exhibitors who have yet to complete the surveys may follow the links indicated below to access the surveys. The deadline for submitting your fully completed survey along with your name is December 4th.

A special thanks to all our Sponsors and Exhibitors who helped make our conference a success.

[Click here to access the 81st National Aviation Conference survey](http://www.atac.ca/web/images/Documents/SURVEY%20-%20ATAC%20Conference%202015.pdf)[Click here to access the Tradeshow evaluation survey](http://www.atac.ca/web/images/Documents/SURVEY%20-%20Exhibitor%20Evaluation%20Form%202015.pdf)