
NEWS RELEASE

Canadian Chamber of Commerce to Champion Open Skies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gatineau, September 28, 2010 – Chambers of Commerce from across the country gathered in Canada’s Capital Region this past weekend for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting where they sent a strong message calling on the federal government to immediately move into an open skies approach to air agreements, both in passenger and cargo.

“Open skies has our support and the support of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, not to mention hundreds of chambers across the country. This is the Voice of Business speaking,” said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “We’re saying it’s time Canada joined the rest of the developed world by putting our communities at the heart of air agreements by adopting a truly open skies approach.”

Among the recommendations the Canadian Chamber is making to the federal government regarding air agreements is the appeal to allow the establishment of foreign owned but Canadian domiciled carriers (right of establishment), and to introduce greater transparency into the negotiating process by allowing airports equal status at the negotiating table with airlines and by ensuring that all agreements are open and transparent.

“Jurisdictions around the world have shown that increasing competition and transparency lead to more job creation and better agreements,” continued Winter. “The business community has sent a clear message, the government’s approach needs to change.”

Delegates at the Canadian Chamber AGM also discussed a number of other critical transportation issues of particular importance to BC. The BC Chamber is now urging the federal government to develop coordinated approaches to capital funding for Canada’s airports, as well as calling on the federal government to work with other levels of government to develop a comprehensive, integrated plan for rural transport.

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