

A next-generation think tank

The first of its kind, the Aviation Think Tank at Concordia serves as a neutral platform for industry professionals and researchers to focus on a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the sector.

A focal point for international organizations operating in the global policy and regulatory spheres, the Aviation Think Tank at Concordia capitalizes on Montreal's unique position as an important centre of Canada's aviation industry and a world-class hub of aerospace research and development.



"Network building and collaborative problem-solving within a variety of industries were critical components to my past work. I believe our Think Tank has the capacity to build connections that will lead to tomorrow's solutions in aviation."

— François Bouilhac, executive director, Aviation Think Tank at Concordia; assistant deputy minister (2000-2010), Government of Quebec; president, COMREL International

The Aviation Think Tank at Concordia will advance innovative ideas and propose evidence-based policies to support sustained growth in this dynamic, rapidly evolving industry for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Independent and impartial, it draws on the expertise of leaders in multiple domains and sectors, providing a unique forum for inter-sectoral, international and interdisciplinary exchanges, as well as a channel for communicating novel, forward-looking ideas.

Addressing industry questions

Existing aviation policy centres and institutes are typically defined by a particular area of interest or advance a specific research agenda. The Aviation Think Tank at Concordia is designed to address a broad spectrum of issues — from sustainability to profitability — while remaining responsive to the interests of all aviation stakeholders. Among others, it will explore the following topics.

Commercial aviation as an economic growth engine: It works to develop an economic model to identify the optimum profitability of each industry player, from government institutions to individual travellers, through such tools as taxes and subsidies.

The power of hubs: It examines the overall economic benefit and trade-off of aviation hubs, which are increasingly powerful in growing airlines' market presence and profitability, as well as customer satisfaction.

Facilitation and security: It proposes how to make the facilitation process more efficient and customer-friendly, including streamlining pre-booking, and examines a redistribution of resources to improve security and reduce customer inconvenience.

Sustainability: It monitors the progress of tactics to reduce the carbon footprint and noise impact, examining and proposing optimum strategies. It defines a sustainable ecotourism strategy to minimize impact on cultural sites while maintaining major economic benefits.

A departure from the commonplace

A rotating international advisory board, which features a cross-section of high-level professionals and industry leaders, determines the strategic directions and research objectives of the Aviation Think Tank at Concordia. Our preliminary advisory board includes:

Pierre J. Jeannot, former director general and CEO, International Air Transport Association; former president and CEO, Air Canada; chair, Aviation Think Tank at Concordia

Isabelle Dostaler, professor, Department of Management, Concordia's John Molson School of Business; academic director, Aviation Think Tank at Concordia

Graham Carr, provost and vice-president of Academic Affairs, Concordia

James C. Cherry, president and CEO, Aéroports de Montréal

John W. Crichton, former president and CEO, NAV CANADA

Jean-François Lemay, general manager, Air Transat

Aaron Nsakanda, associate professor of Management Science and Operations Management, Carleton University

Alan Shepard, president, Concordia

Michel Wachenheim, senior advisor to the CEO, Airbus; former ambassador and permanent representative of France, International Civil Aviation Organization Council



“Supported with the right information, all aviation stakeholders will be better positioned to begin informed discussions about implementing new solutions.”

— Isabelle Dostaler, professor, Department of Management, Concordia’s John Molson School of Business; academic director, Aviation Think Tank at Concordia

Mission: The Aviation Think Tank at Concordia is the pre-eminent Canadian and global think tank for convening research and multi-stakeholder exchanges on key issues of strategy, policy development and communications for the benefit of the aviation industry and its diverse public and private stakeholders.

The Aviation Think Tank at Concordia was created to:

- Develop policy proposals for a stronger aviation industry;
- Improve the travel experience and consumer choice;
- Encourage practices that are environmentally sustainable;
- Promote the important role of aviation in stimulating economic, social and cultural development;
- Tap bright, young minds for ingenuity to address industry challenges.



“We welcome the opportunity to work with the Aviation Think Tank at Concordia. As an independent body, it will greatly assist industry in resolving complex issues facing our sector through evidence-based research and by fostering an exchange of ideas among

key stakeholders.”

— Gregg Saretsky, president and CEO, Westjet



“The Aviation Think Tank at Concordia has great synergy with the Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation (CIADI). While Think Tank business researchers focus on management, policy perspectives and innovation

for future success in the industry, CIADI will continue to explore issues of safety, convenience and environmental and financial sustainability to offer practical solutions based on next-generation technologies.”

— Amir Asif, dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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