

36th Annual General Meeting of the Northern Air Transport Association

April 2012

Whitehorse, Yukon

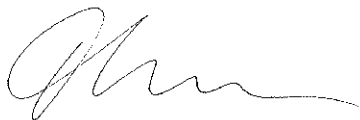
President's Message

The need for enhanced weather reporting systems in the North, lack of fuel storage capacity at northern airports, the predominance of gravel runways in the North, delayed development of GPS approaches at northern airports, poor northern airport security, David and Goliath competition at northern hub airports and the unsuitability of RESA regulations for northern airports...sound familiar?

These issues and many more have plagued northern operators for many years. And they continue to do so despite a concerted collective effort to make changes. Thus, the list of challenges worthy of discussion at this, our 36th Annual General Meeting, is long and, unfortunately, predictable. Having said that, we are pleased to welcome once again, our colleagues from government. Without their ongoing participation we are unlikely to gain any traction in the fight to alleviate some of the stresses which are an integral part of life as a northern carrier. Despite setbacks and lack of progress on many issues, I remain encouraged that we will be able to tackle and topple some of these hurdles if we keep pulling in the right and same direction.

While I am certain that we will enjoy a fulsome discussion on the matter of northern aviation challenges, if we accomplish nothing else at this AGM I hope that we can, at a minimum, convey the message that air transportation in Canada is an important economic driver and in the North it is imperative and absolutely necessary element of the economic wellbeing of its residents, businesses and government. If we are successful in this task all else should flow more easily to support such an important facet of northern life.

On behalf of the NATA Board of Directors I want to thank you all for your participation in this year's AGM. Your attendance here is critical to our mission.



Tracy Medve
President
Northern Air Transport Association

