

Nexus Press Conference Remarks
Jim Facette, President & CEO
Canadian Airports Council
Monday, February 12, 2007

Good Morning and thank you Minister for the opportunity to say a few remarks.

The Canadian Airports Council is the voice of airports in Canada. Our members handle 95% of the passenger traffic and 100% of the cargo activity in Canada.

This is an important day, not just for the airport here in Toronto but also for airports and communities across Canada. Today is a first step in the expansion of an important traveler program aimed at facilitating passengers through customs.

The Nexus program is an acknowledgement that we can use advanced technology safely and securely. It represents a realization that passenger facilitation and security can find a common ground.

Canada's airports share this view.

We were supportive on your Government's commitment in the 2006 budget for the expansion of the Nexus program. It is important that the Nexus program get off to a good start; this is why the CAC will continue to work with the CBSA to ensure the word gets out about the Nexus program.

The Canadian Airports Council will continue to work with your Agency in not only expanding this program across Canada but also in meeting the future needs of custom services at Canadian airports through the use of new technology and any additional resources that may be required.

The services provided by the Custom Border Services Agency are essential to the success and ability of Canadian airports to take full advantage of the increasing movement toward more liberalized air service agreements.

Your Government's Blue Sky policy of negotiating Open Skies agreements with interested countries has great potential. Once Open Sky agreements are reached with a country it is important that we have a passenger and cargo facilitation processes and resources from the CBSA.

Statistics continue to point to increasing passenger and cargo traffic. We must continue to work together as we strive to achieve a continued common ground between security and passenger facilitation.

The Canadian Airports Council looks forward to the continued expansion of Nexus and working with your Agency in order to meet the needs of Canadian airports and the communities they serve.

Thank you