

Message from the President

Dear Valued Member,

Yesterday, February 16, the Hotel Association of Canada issued a press release based on our 2011 national Travel Survey www.hotelassociation.ca. The Survey shows that 21 percent of Canadians are travelling to the United States to purchase and travel on less expensive airline tickets. This represents more than 5 million return trips; a multi-million dollar loss for Canadian airlines, hotels, restaurants as well as Federal, Provincial and Municipal tax revenues.

Our statement to the government is ***Canada's aviation cost structure is clearly a deterrent to travel and tourism.*** The Hotel Association of Canada is requesting the Government of Canada to take immediate action to:

- reduce airport ground lease rents;
- excise taxes on fuel and air navigation and control fees;
- make the Canadian Air Traveller Security Charge national in scope and not user pay.

Furthermore we recommend the Government of Canada be pro-active in negotiating liberalized bilateral air transport agreements.

There has been extensive national, regional and local media coverage on the topic. To date, I have conducted 18 interviews with:

- The National Post
- The Globe & Mail
- CTV NewsNet
- CTV National News
- CBC Newsworld
- Global News
- Canada AM
- The Canadian Press
- La Presse Canadienne
- CKNW Morning News
- CTV News (Toronto)
- Radio Canada (Montreal)
- CBC Radio (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver)
- News 680 (Toronto)
- Winnipeg Free Press
- 1010 Talk Radio (Toronto)
- CHCH TV
- CKNY News (Vancouver)

The story has also had media pick-up throughout Canada and into the US:

- WVIB (Buffalo)
- The Toronto Star
- The Chronicle Herald

- The Edmonton Journal
 - Medicine Hat News
 - Hotel-online.com
 - 680 News Toronto
 - The Montreal Gazette
 - travelweek.ca
 - The Guardian
 - Travel Press.com
 - Metro News
 - Red Deer Advocate
 - Airportbusiness.com
- and
- The Bellingham Herald

The communiqué has been sent to all Members of Parliament with direct communication with Opposition Critics as well as with senior government officials.

Complete survey results will be presented at HAC's National Conference, March 7 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'APollard', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anthony Pollard
President