



The Honourable Minister Hajdu Announces \$4.8 million Federal Funding for CCAA in Support of Work-Integrated-Learning in High-Demand STEM Occupations in Aviation & Aerospace

Ottawa, Canada – August 30, 2017

The Canadian Council for Aviation & Aerospace (CCAA) is proud to announce that Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC) has approved a \$4.8 million multi-stakeholder 4-year project to put aviation and aerospace post-secondary students into Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) placements. The primary focus of the project is to significantly increase the number of work-integrated-learning opportunities - up to 1000 students in our industry across Canada.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour, made the announcement at the Air Canada Maintenance Facility at the Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport in Ottawa, during an event hosted by the CCAA. Giving post-secondary students the chance to learn in a hands-on work environment is part of the Government's plan to put Canada's greatest strength – its skilled, hard-working people - at the heart of a more innovative new economy. The Government of Canada is rolling out a \$73-million investment to create 10,000 paid student work placements in the Biotechnology, Information & Communications Technology, Environment, and Aviation & Aerospace sectors.

CCAA, a national partnership organization, is proud to be part of Canada's first major work-integrated learning consortium for aviation & aerospace-specific placements. Acquiring training and experience simultaneously is a best-practice in high-skills STEM fields; increasing the value and relevance of training by providing hands-on experience using actual equipment, the correct tools, in the real workplace. These work-integrated learning placements will also allow for industry and participating PSE institutions to modernize how aircraft technicians in key occupations are trained. **CCAA's \$4.8 million partnership with ESDC is expected to create more than 1,000 student work placements for Post-Secondary Education (PSE) students.**

Under the **Student Work-Integrated Learning Program (SWILP)**, CCAA will administer wage subsidies to employers offering quality work-integrated learning placements to full-time PSE students. **Employers will be eligible to receive wage subsidies of 50% (with a maximum of \$5,000 per placement) up to 70% (with a maximum of \$7,000 per placement) of the wage cost** for the placement of first-year students and under-represented groups including, women in STEM, Indigenous students, persons with disabilities, and students with a permanent residency status in Canada.





As a subset of the project, CCAA and a consortium of companies and colleges (see list of partners below) developed an innovative training program which combines skills for Maintenance Technicians with those of Avionics and Interiors Technicians, together with soft skills and business skills, to produce “**Multi-Disciplinary Technicians**” (MDT). Over the next 4 years, the **MDT project will wage subsidies of \$5,000 or up to \$7,000 per student, per work term**, for one of the following types of work-integrated learning experiences: co-op placements, internships, field placements, or applied projects to solve specific problems for employers.

Quoted Highlights

"When Canadian students get on-the-job education, they're getting the experience they need to succeed. Our Innovation and Skills Plan is putting Canada's skilled, talented and creative people at the heart of a more innovative future economy."

– **The Honourable Patty Hajdu**, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour,

“As Canada’s largest employer in the aviation sector, Air Canada supports initiatives such as this to help develop Canada’s workforce and expertise in aircraft maintenance. Together with our industry partners, we look forward to working with the Canadian Council for Aviation and Aerospace to provide students across Canada access to hands-on learning opportunities and access to state-of-the-art technology.”

– **Richard Steer**, Senior Vice President, Operations at Air Canada stated,

“Work-Integrated Learning allows students to practice the skills they have learned and to get valuable hands-on work experience. It also allows them to develop an awareness of work-place culture and valuable business soft-skills.”

– **Theresa Davis-Woodhouse**, CCAA’s Director of Project Management

“CCAA would like to thank the dedicated team at Employment, Social Development Canada who have assisted in the development of this important initiative, and those companies and associations who have given us their confidence as partners in executing this project.”

– **Robert Donald**, CCAA’s Executive Director

To participate as an industry partner, a post-secondary educational institution, or co-op student, or for more information on SWILP or the CCAA Multi-Disciplinary Technician (MDT) Project, **contact Theresa Davis-Woodhouse, Director of Project Management** at

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Partners (to date) Post-secondary educational institutions: Fanshawe, Canadore, Centennial, BCIT, SAIT, ENA, University of British Columbia and Carleton University.

Partners (to date) Aviation & Aerospace Companies: Air Canada, Air Georgian, Avianor, Hope Aero Propeller and Components, Jazz Aviation, KF Aerospace, Les Services Airbase Inc., M1 Composites Technologies Inc., Premier Aviation, and KF Aerospace.

About CCAA:

The Canadian Council for Aviation & Aerospace (CCAA) is Canada's trusted aviation & aerospace industry partner and the only sector organization focused on a national labour market and workforce strategy. We support the Aviation & Aerospace sector by building partnerships between industry, government, education and organized labour groups, to attract new workers and upskill current workers so as to meet future replacement and growth needs of the industry. As a National certifying body, we also deliver worldwide-recognized certification and professional skills training across Canada.

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