Southern Ontario is an economic powerhouse

Southern Ontario is the most economically productive region in Canada and an established leader of enterprise and innovation. Several Fortune 500 companies and more than 25 post-secondary institutions call this region home, positioning businesses in the region to drive economic growth well into the future. Employment in the region is also growing, accounting for 33 per cent of Canada's overall employment.

Corporate aviation helps fuel this growth, moving the people and goods that drive these businesses from the region to the world.

Growing demand

Long term worldwide forecasts for general aviation activity are stable, with hours flown by turbine aircraft and rotorcraft expected to increase 2.4 per cent over the next two decades. Jet aircraft are expected to account for most of the increase, resulting mainly from the increasing size of the business jet fleet; aircraft manufacturers are also forecasting growth in this aircraft type.

Southern Ontario is set to experience significant growth over the next three decades and is one of the fastest growing regions in North America. Not surprisingly, demand for air travel across the region will follow suit. This growth presents significant opportunities for the region, local communities and their airports. It is forecast that more than 90 million travellers and approximately a million tonnes of cargo will fly in to, out of and through Southern Ontario by 2037.

Building an integrated air travel network

In many large metropolitan areas around the world, airports within a region can work together to offer complimentary services that benefit an entire region. In a similar fashion, the Southern Ontario Airport Network (SOAN) formed to meet the challenges of aviation growth in the region. Composed of twelve member airports, the network positions Southern Ontario as the premier Canadian location for aviation business and investment.

Positioning the region for success

Toronto Pearson, this region's and Canada's largest airport, currently supports the vast majority of aircraft movements in to, out of and through Southern Ontario. It has seen record passenger growth over the last three years with no signs of slowing. To support the demands of the region for global connectivity that facilitates tourism, foreign direct investment and access to new markets for business, Toronto Pearson will continue to be the main hub for air connectivity in Southern Ontario, joining the top tier of international airports. Key to facilitating this important national and global connectivity is having the regions other airports play a greater role in supporting economically important air service needs, including general aviation, that Toronto Pearson currently accommodates.

Taking advantage of other airports in the region will be crucial to spreading the economic benefits of aviation more broadly, magnifying the social and economic impacts throughout the area, while enabling Toronto Pearson to excel at offering global connectivity and the range of services required in a top tier international hub airport.
The SOAN member airports see over 50,000 business and corporate aviation flights each year, with modern facilities and convenient locations. The vast majority of Ontario residents – 88 per cent – live in the metropolitan areas serviced by our members. Convenient to key employment and industrial centres, the well-positioned network of SOAN airports are desirable alternatives for operators and customers looking for alternatives to flying via Toronto Pearson.

**Strategic locations**

Many corporate or business aviation clients operating to and from Toronto Pearson are conducting business across the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area. SOAN member airports are strategically positioned around this region as well as Southern Ontario to suit the needs of their customers and the businesses they serve, saving travel time and avoiding road congestion in the region. With access to a high concentration of qualified employees, plentiful vendors and suppliers and a strong customer base, businesses in the area can benefit from the proximity and convenience of these diverse airport facilities.

**Modern amenities, professional service and low fees**

The network of SOAN airports features a variety of modern airport facilities. Users can expect competitive operating costs such as landing and ramp fees, passenger fees, as well as lower costs associated with commercial development opportunities.

With experienced, established, and branded Fixed Base Operators already serving an abundance of corporate and business aircraft across the SOAN network, operators and clients can expect professional and efficient service with personalized amenities.

**Easy access**

In the SOAN network, airport users can take advantage of a range of airport environments, including those with reduced congestion, both in the air and on the ground. Many have no traffic management issues meaning operators and users will enjoy efficient service and the potential of reduced congestion delays. SOAN airports are serviced by networks of provincial highways and corridors that could face less road congestion than a major urban metropolis, resulting in greater efficiencies and customer satisfaction.

**Commercial Opportunities**

Airports are hubs for commercial development, bringing access to new markets for area businesses and opportunities for operators to expand their businesses. The variety of airport facilities in the SOAN network can provide customized and competitive opportunities to base general aviation business in a range of core airports across the region. These airports offer can often offer land development opportunities, competitive rates and diverse access to key markets that may not be consistently available as Canada’s largest airport, located in the heart of a thriving mega-region.

Learn more about the Southern Ontario Airports Network and member airports
soairportnetwork.com
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