

## BACKGROUND

“Eighty years ago, Canada’s decision-makers committed to making the country a global leader in aerospace. They were visionaries. The time has come for us to renew that commitment.”

- Hon. Jean Charest, Chair  
Partner, McCarthy Tetrault, S.E.N.C.R.L.,s.r.l.

### **Minister of Skills Development & Skills Training**

The ongoing success of Canada’s aerospace industry rests on the strength of its highly educated, well-trained workforce. Aerospace’s share of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workers is two times the national manufacturing average. Women hold nearly a quarter of all STEM-related aerospace jobs in Canada.

With the average age of an aerospace manufacturing being 54, the industry faces a massive labour crunch. The need for action is urgent: companies are already struggling to find qualified candidates for high-skilled well-paying jobs. It is estimated that 50,000 new workers will be required to replace those leaving the sector in the coming years – with new skills demands to meet.

***As a result, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) is calling upon the Prime Minister to appoint a minister specific to skills. This Minister would work with industry and the provinces to develop a long-term strategy to ensure a well-trained workforce.***

### **Special Mandate for the Minister of International Trade**

Canada’s aerospace sector is the fifth-largest in the world. For decades, it has punched well above its weight in the global market. In recent years, the global economy has changed profoundly. Internationally, aerospace growth is going to be exponential over the coming decades as the world’s middle-class swells with millions in India and Asia in particular joining its ranks. People want to travel. Demand for air transportation will soar. Advanced industrial economies everywhere want a share of that estimated \$10 trillion market. That includes Canada’s traditional aerospace competitors such as the U.S., France and the UK. But, for the first time, it also includes new entrants such as India, Vietnam, China, Russia, Singapore and others. It’s time to rethink how Canada competes.

***As a result, the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) is calling upon the Prime Minister to empower the Minister of International trade with a special mandate to grow the Canadian aerospace sector internationally.***

---

Both of these calls align with the **six key priority areas** requiring increased government and industry collaboration outlined in the Vision 2025 report, ‘**Charting a New Course,**’ namely:

- Building the most skilled and talented workforce in the world;
- Ensuring small and medium-sized businesses thrive and grow;

- Using innovation to capture new opportunities, including carbon-neutral flight and unmanned vehicles;
  - Investing to maintain Canada's status as a world-class regulator;
  - Leveraging Canada's role at the forefront of space;
  - Maximizing defence procurement and government partnerships to drive new industrial growth.
- 

During the federal election campaign, AIAC sent letters to each of the federal Party leaders seeking their written support for the aerospace industry and the six key Vision 2025 recommendations.

AIAC received responses back from every party, except the Green Party. The responses can be read in their entirety at [www.aiac.ca/election-2019/](http://www.aiac.ca/election-2019/)

#### **Excerpts:**

##### Liberal Party of Canada

"Aerospace contributes more than \$25 billion to our GDP and 213,000 jobs to our economy. It is the number one R&D investor across manufacturing industries, and over five times as research-intensive as the manufacturing average. What is more, the sectors are at the leading edge of advanced technologies, and hire a tremendous number of skilled workers, including workers with STEM skills. These are the kinds of well-paying, long-lasting, middle-class jobs of tomorrow our economy needs."

"To continue to lead the world, we will have to work together – business, researchers and government – to provide the right skills and development, and the necessary investments."

##### Conservative Party of Canada

"Conservatives recognize that Canadian industry needs to keep and attract the best and the brightest workers. We will ensure government re-training programs meet the demand for skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

"We will stand up for Canada's strategic industries and pursue opportunities for Canadian manufacturers to increase growth and exports."

##### NDP

"New Democrats recognize that Canada's aerospace industry is an important economic driver at the cutting edge of global innovation which supports thousands of good jobs."

“Having access to highly-skilled workers is essential for the long-term success of Canada’s aerospace industry. An NDP government will invest in education and skills training so that workers have the opportunities to gain the skills they need to succeed, and employers have access to the skilled workers they need to grow and expand their business. We will work with the provinces and territories to ensure Canadians have access to education and training throughout their professional lives, including proactive training and retraining.”

#### Bloc Québécois

“Canada is the only country with a large aerospace industry and no strategy to support it. While our competitors have their governments’ support, our homegrown industry can only count on spotty assistance with measures on a case-by-case-basis. This makes the sector fragile and hinders the Québec economy.” *(NOTE: translated from French)*

“We undertake to defend the Quebec aerospace industry vigorously. Innovation is key to our economic commitment, and it is what we plan to focus on in the coming years. We should be proud of the aerospace industry’s accomplishments. Québec has all the talent it needs to allow the industry to grow and flourish, but we must seize the opportunities available to us now. You can count on the Bloc Quebecois to defend our industry and our workers.” *(NOTE: translated from French)*

---

AIAC launched **Vision 2025** just over a year ago. **Vision 2025** is a pan-Canadian initiative that has started a new dialogue to protect Canadian jobs and secure our future as an international aerospace champion.

AIAC has been travelling across the country for more than a year engaging our members, federal and provincial governments, and the 200,000 employees that depend on aerospace. Thousands attended AIAC’s engagement days including provincial premiers, provincial and federal ministers and representatives from unions, colleges, universities and more. The process resulted in a comprehensive report titled, **Charting a New Course**, that outlines the industry’s concerns and recommendations with **six key priority areas** that require increased government and industry collaboration.

To learn more about VISION 2025, please visit [www.aiac.ca/vision2025](http://www.aiac.ca/vision2025) (English) or [www.aiac.ca/fr/vision2025](http://www.aiac.ca/fr/vision2025) (French)

#### **About AIAC:**

*AIAC is the national association representing Canada’s aerospace manufacturing and services sector. As the world’s fifth-largest aerospace industry, Canada’s aerospace sector contributes over \$25B to the economy in GDP, exports over 70% of its output, and dedicates nearly 20% of its activity to research and development (R&D). Aerospace is responsible for the employment of nearly 215,000 Canadians.*

**Media contact:**

Christine Csversko, Manager, Communications and Marketing [ccsversko@aiac.ca](mailto:ccsversko@aiac.ca) 613-232-4297 x235