



NEWS RELEASE

GREATER TORONTO AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

GTAA RESPONSE TO TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS STUDY

February 11, 2009

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) welcomed the recommendations of the “Discovering Ontario” report on the future of tourism, released today by Chairperson Greg Sorbara.

The GTAA was pleased with the findings of the report, which outlines reasonable and effective recommendations that will provide a boost to the tourism industry and result in much needed stimulus for the economy. The GTAA looks forward to working with the Province to implement these recommendations and fully leverage Toronto Pearson International Airport as a significant component of Ontario’s tourism infrastructure.

In particular, the GTAA supports the report’s recommendation that Ontario should advocate for improved access to international markets, reduce barriers for entry into the province at its key gateway entry points and, overall, make it easier for tourists to choose Ontario. In light of current economic climate, we appreciate the support of the provincial government to encourage their federal counterparts to focus on liberalized air service agreements with other countries, which is vital to increasing passenger choice and stimulating growth in air traffic at Toronto Pearson. Further, ‘Approved Destination Status’ with China would be very beneficial to airlines offering links between Toronto and Asia.

Lorrie McKee, Director, Public Affairs and Communications for the GTAA, who appeared at the Tourism Competitiveness hearings, was pleased to see a focus on transportation infrastructure. “The value of improving access to tourism destinations, especially the rail link between Toronto Pearson and downtown Toronto cannot be overstated. Moving people efficiently is essential to a strong tourism market.”

The GTAA continues to work closely with the Ontario Tourism, Tourism Toronto, provincial and federal governments, airlines and other tourism stakeholders to ensure that the air travel needs of the community are well served.

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