Backgrounder

ICAO AND CANADA

History

- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), based in Montréal since 1947, is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was created in Chicago on December 7, 1944, under the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Activities

- ICAO's mandate is to promote the safe and orderly development of air navigation, air transportation and aviation security.

- Canada has been active in triennial ICAO assemblies which have endorsed aviation safety initiatives such as a global strategic planning concept; civil and military co-ordination; smoking restrictions on international passenger flights that will lead to a complete ban by 1996; and the harmonization of global aviation rules.

Canada's role

- Canada is a founding member of ICAO and is one of 183 contracting states.

- The Canadian representative to ICAO is on the ICAO Council, the organization's governing body, and is currently its First Vice-President.

- Canada has been elected to the Council by virtue of this country's status as a "state of chief importance in air transport."

- Canada is a member of all of the organization's standing committees and is currently involved in a special task force on the implementation of the communications, navigation, surveillance and air traffic management system (CNS/ATM), which applies high technologies in satellites, computers, data links and avionics to air traffic services.

- At ICAO's request, Canada provides air traffic control and aviation weather services for the western half of the North Atlantic in addition to its sovereign responsibility for Canadian airspace.