

# News Release

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## OUELLET ANNOUNCES PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN ICAO 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced his plans to participate in the 50th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ICAO was created in 1944 and established its headquarters in Montréal in 1947.

"Canada is honoured to host this important international body. The active support and co-operation of all levels of government for ICAO's continued presence has made Montréal the civil aviation capital of the world," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet will be host to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at a celebration at the Place des Arts on the evening of December 6.

On December 7, Mr. Ouellet will attend a flag-raising ceremony at ICAO headquarters to mark the first International Day of Civil Aviation.

ICAO is one of the oldest UN-associated bodies and is the only UN organization with headquarters in Canada. It has 183 member states and employs a staff of more than 700. Its mandate is to set standards and regulations and to make plans for the safety of international civil air transportation.

The ICAO anniversary is one of several international events leading up to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

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A background document is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Canada

## 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 coordination; 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.