

THE URBAN FLYER



MAY 2021 | SPRING UPDATE

BREIFING NOTES



A Word From the Editor

Well, what can I say? It's May 2021 and we are STILL HERE! When I touched base with you last November, things were starting to look up, there were talks of a 2nd wave, but traffic numbers were on the rise, airports were beginning to look "busy" again, vaccines were well into the late stages of trials, showing promising results, and for the first time since the start of the pandemic, things were beginning to look up! Fast forward a few months, and who knew we would have been hit with such a deadly 3rd wave, experience further employee reductions at our major carriers, have stricter and more frequent lockdowns and, as mentioned in the first few opening sentences, still be HERE!

COVID-19 and all the resulting economic impacts have been, by far, the worst downturn aviation has ever seen. The past year has been tough, to say the least, and as an aviation-based organization, many of us have been severely impacted. Throughout the pandemic, I have done my best to remain positive, but I have had moments where everything just seemed a bit too much! We all deal with crisis differently, and to keep things 100% real, there is nothing that I can say that will allow everyone to feel better. For me, although the pandemic has taken away a lot, it has also given me many "gems". For one, I have a newfound appreciation for life and the "little things". I have reconnected with nature and the outdoors, spent invaluable time with my family and rekindled my appreciation for this passion, aviation, that we all hold so dear. So, although it's hard to feel stuck, and while there is no clear answer to when things will return to normal, what I can say, with absolute confidence, is that "this too shall

THE FLIGHT PLAN

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"Surviving"*

From the Captain's Chair

The Debrief

pass”!

The last few weeks have been promising. For a few days in a row, we have seen a consistent drop in overall case numbers, as well as the ICU load. Our vaccination rollout got off to a rough start, however, we have recently found our stride, with Canada now having more adults with first doses, percentage wise, than the USA. Some airlines are starting to ramp up, with a few announcing recalls. To top things off, last week Premier Doug Ford announced a tiered reopening plan for the province. Starting as early as this weekend, many of us can experience outdoor sports like golf, tennis and basketball again. I know we have a long way to go, and although I remain cautiously optimistic, for the first time, in a long time, it is actually looking up!

In this Spring release of our newsletter, you are in for a treat! We will hear from someone just starting her career, expressing what it has been like to live out her dream and on the other end, a note from one of our very own veterans, well into his career, on “surviving”. I am always inspired by our youth, their energy and passion are simply infectious, and two of our aspiring aviators took the time to share what allows them to remain optimistic. And, if that in itself wasn’t enough, we managed to sneak in a few surprises!

A lot of hard work went into this production, so please take the time to read what was intended for you, our members. Here is to an amazing Holiday Monday and to an even better summer! Hopefully when I check back with you in November, the cautious optimism will have translated into tangible improvements with lots for us to celebrate!

STAY MOTIVATED and HAPPY READING!

*First Officer Damar Walker
Secretary & Aviation Camp Director*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - SPRING 2021

NEW MEMBERS

A special shout out to our newest members! Please join me in extending an extra warm welcome to the most recent additions to our UPN



URBAN PILOTS NETWORK

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our members continue to step up in the midst of adversity and are making tremendous strides! Congratulations to all those that choose not to give up and to keep their eyes on the prize! We truly are very proud of you!

Samuel Nikiema - Multi Flight Test

Asa Archibald - CPL & IFR Flight test

Cleveland Ginton - Class 4 Instructor Rating

Karl Loken - CPL Flight Test, Instrument Written

Zahabia Faizy - CPL Flight Test & Class 4 Instructor Rating

Dion Haynes - ATPL Exams completed

Coneil Campbell - Night Rating, CPL Flight Test

Chioma Okoro - PPL Flight Test

Maurice McCrae - Multi Flight Test

Allison Couch - Multi & CPL Flight Test, FO Position on a PC12

Julian Compton - FO 757-200 @ MorningStar

To all of our members, please keep us up to date on your accomplishments. Continue to reach out to us via WhatsApp, or if you prefer, send us an email at urbanpilotsnet@hotmail.com. We love hearing from you!

Aviation Family!

AVIATION PROFESSIONALS

Trish Machiri

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Lahou Keita

GENERAL MEMBERS

Joachim Bony

STUDENT MEMBERS

Chioma Okoro

Fanta Diop

Aiden Parkins

Angeline Ram

Maxwell Agbelogode

Dimetri DaCosta

Kimani Hayden

YOUNG PILOT MEMBERS

Julian Brandon



SQUAWKBOX



FLAIR'S 1st MAX TAKES FLIGHT

In January, FLAIR Airlines announced that they will be acquiring 13 737 MAX aircraft, via a lease agreement with Miami-based equity firm 777 Partners. Just this week, the first of their MAX aircraft was seen, taking flight, out of Boeing's Renton facility. For FLAIR, this represents the first stages of a plan to operate 50 aircraft within 5 years. For us here at UPN, it represents growth and as such, more opportunities for our members.



INDIA & PAKISTAN FLIGHT BAN EXTENDED

The federal government is extending the current flight ban of passenger traffic, for India and Pakistan, which started on April 22, until at least June 21, 2021. The ban is specifically in place for direct flights to and from both countries. With the drastic increase in COVID-19 cases in India, over the past few weeks, our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have family and friends that have been directly affected. It is encouraging to see the many countries, including Canada, that have stepped up in

porter

PORTER IN TALKS WITH PEARSON

According to sources, Porter has been in talks with Toronto Pearson International, alongside other airports in Ontario. Although this report is unconfirmed, it aligns with an earlier story that Porter has 30 Embraer 195-E2 jets on order. This represents a departure, of the Billy Bishop based airline, from their 29 strong, all Q400 fleet, and could note a shift in their business model from primarily business traffic into the leisure market. If confirmed, this could spell the end of their 2013 conditional offer for 30 Airbus A220 jets.

Canada

CANADIAN CARRIERS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE RESTART PLAN

Last week, the National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC) repeated their urgent calls to the Canadian Government to move forward with a clear restart plan for aviation and the treatment of fully vaccinated passengers. This comes as the EU Council, announced recommendations to enable fully vaccinated passengers to enter the EU. The push includes the removal of quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated passengers and more testing options to help reduce quarantine requirements for those who have yet to be vaccinated. Mike McNaney, the President and CEO of NACC said "countries that successfully plan will not only safely restart aviation and their overall economy, [but they will also] take jobs and investment from countries that do not. It goes without saying, that a clear and effective restart plan is not only imperative for aviation, but our

donations and aid, to help mitigate the impacts that the novel virus has had on the region. We hope for a swift turnaround and a resumption of flights, in the near future.

entire economy also depends on it. The NACC represents Canada's largest carriers, including Air Canada, Jazz Aviation, Air Transat and WestJet.



CANADA-US BORDER CLOSURE EXTENDED INTO JUNE

It is official, the Canada-US border will remain closed until at least mid June and threatens to extend into the summer. This most recent extensions represents a 15 month closure of non-essential travel between 2 of the world's largest trading partners. At present, nonessential travel from the USA to Canada is barred but Canadians are able to visit the USA, providing their travel did not originate from a country currently under the US travel ban. Canada is showing signs of opening up to the US, but with a lot more of the population vaccinated. Latest reports suggest a 75% vaccination target and currently, only around 50% of Canadians have received their first dose, with only 4% of the population being fully vaccinated. Although we continue to make strides on our "return to normal", stories like this remind us that we still have a very steep climb ahead.



BOEING TO INCREASE 737 MAX PRODUCTION

After one of the longest groundings in recent aviation history, the Boeing 737 MAX safely returned to the skies earlier this year for Canadian Carriers that operate the type. Reuters is now reporting that the Renton produced aircraft may see an aircraft production rate as high as 42 aircraft per month by Autumn of 2022. If achieved, this would represent a 35% increase from Boeing's existing targets for early 2022. As of last month, 21 airlines have reactivated the type, with Boeing having delivered more than 80 MAX aircraft post-

recertification.



RESUMPTION OF SUN DESTINATION FLIGHTS

Air Canada has confirmed that it will resume flights to Cuba and other Caribbean countries that had service suspended earlier this year. Some flights will resume as early as June and are scheduled to depart out of the carrier's Montreal and Toronto bases. Some of the destinations include Cayo Coco, Cuba; Cancun, Mexico; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Montego Bay, Jamaica and Bermuda. With the recent barrage of lockdowns, hotel quarantines and flight restrictions, this resumption of service is definitely a welcomed change.

easyJet

EASYJET MAY OPERATE 90% OF ITS FLEET THIS SUMMER

After reporting a £701 Million loss for the 6 months ending March 31, 2021, EasyJet is ready to deploy up to 90% of its fleet to meet peak summer demand, if required. This is primarily driven by the recent relaxation of travel restrictions across Europe with Germany, leading the way, allowing quarantine free travel from a list over 100 safe countries. Some countries say this 90% target is unlikely, however, it represents a glimpse of how quickly travel demand could return in the very near future with eased restrictions.

Southwest®

SOUTHWEST SEES DEMAND TAKEOFF

Southwest Airlines reported a very strong April, with a 79% load factor. The airline has reported that recent flights have been fuller, and current bookings are at pre-pandemic levels. The demand is so strong, that the airline is predicting that June will post 85% load factors. Much of the traffic has been driven by the leisure market, as many individuals want to break free after being restricted due to the pandemic. Business travel is still down 80% as compared to pre-pandemic levels, but the airline is



EUROPE OPENING FOR TRAVEL

After over a year of lockdowns and restrictions, Europe is set to open. A meeting last week, of the EU Ambassadors set the foundation for this change to be implemented. The change is significant, in that it will allow visitors from all over the world, to visit any of the 27 member states without quarantine or testing requirements, if in receipt of the required doses of an EU-approved vaccine. At present, Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer and Moderna have made

optimistic that these numbers will start to show signs of recovery in the last quarter of this year. It's not all good news for the consumer, as capacity remains limited and most international destinations closed, many passengers can expect to see and uptick in fares. For many, it will be a small price to pay to be able to travel again.

the list. Those with only their first dose will still be required to test on arrival and may still be subject to quarantine. In addition to the above, the member states are looking at expanding their safe country list, which is presently only comprised of 7 nations. At present, Canada and the US have not made the cut, but there is optimism that this could change in the near future.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



UPN Interview & Resume Preparation Course November 13th 2020

The Urban Pilots Network is proud to bring to you an Interview and Resume Preparation seminar in collaboration with personnel from Sunwing Airlines, Jazz & Chorus Aviation. We are positive that the information shared during this course will be invaluable to you and assist you for many years on your aviation journey.



Resumé Prep Course In Review

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with opportunities for introspection and the potential for growth. The Urban Pilots Network showcased this with the Resume Preparation Workshop, in collaboration with Jazz Aviation's Brenda Harwood and First Officer Cornel Garvey, Sunwing's Captain Jeff Gill, and Chorus Aviation's Erica Fuhr, Colleen Price and Hazel Lalla.

This workshop took place on November 13th, 2020, during a time when many aviators were experiencing the resulting impacts of COVID-19. Event participants



were able to connect via ZOOM, which was necessary due to the restrictions imposed on in-person meetings. The workshop proved necessary and also beneficial, in that, it provided the opportunity to share valuable information with the membership.

Captain Gill shared insightful information on his career path before taking a deep dive into resume building. He also provided tangible examples of well written resumes, which the membership lauded on multiple occasions over the course of the evening. Both Chorus and Jazz Aviation provided an opportunity to go over interview questions, in a real-world format, and utilized the professionals in attendance, to provide live feedback. Members noted that being given the opportunity to ask questions directly to HR professionals allowed for a more personalized and deeper understanding of what top notch organizations like Sunwing and Jazz seek in their potential employees.

Overall, the feedback from the membership was positive and many individuals reported being elated having the ability to connect, even if it was in a virtual format. Events such as these, not only provide information that will be valuable to members pursuing a career in aviation but present useful nuggets for those who wish to stand out from the crowd.

Coneil Campbell
IT Communications Director



PERSPECTIVES (A Little Girl with a Dream)

My father would always encourage me to get out more, so I followed his advice! I am an active member of the



At an early age, my father introduced me, up-close, to the intricate workings of airplanes, since he was an aircraft mechanic. I vividly recall the excitement attending air shows with the roar of jet engines contrasting with the tranquility of a glider display. I have been hooked ever since!

Two years ago, I made the bold decision to transition my career from flight attendant to commercial pilot. I had left my job as a flight attendant with Emirates Airlines and enrolled full-time in professional pilot training. Just last month, April 2021, I graduated from the Integrated Airline Transport Pilot Licence (IATPL) program, at the Brampton Flight Centre. I am now the proud owner of a commercial pilot licence with a multi-engine instrument rating. My objective is to progress my career, to be sitting up front in the flight deck, for a dynamic and reputable regional carrier, with a long-term vision to broaden my career into leadership roles in safety management or flight operations.

I am fortunate to have had diverse, international job experiences, working with colleagues from a multitude of cultures and backgrounds. As a young professional born of mixed heritage, I readily recognize the power of diversity in the workplace and the

Urban Pilots Network (UPN), as well as being involved in The Ninety-Nines and Women in Aviation. I thoroughly enjoy the networking and camaraderie I gain, as a benefit from volunteering. I also find it to be a truly rewarding experience to mentor young people. Last month, Lahou Keita, Zoey Williams and I were each asked to give a presentation (virtually), on behalf of UPN, to more than 500 high school students at the Girls' Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Peel District School Board. I was impressed by the quality of questions the students asked and their level of maturity.

As I grow my own career, I am confident that my ability to support others in their career progression will intensify, where I can leverage additional networking and experiences to assist aspiring professionals.

Some advice I would offer anyone interested in becoming a pilot would be—the sooner you get started—the better. I also encourage anyone with an interest in aviation to get involved in the many organizations that offer comradeship and support to start and grow your career. There are many great organizations such as The Ninety-Nines, Women in Aviation, the Northern Lights Aero Foundation and Elevate Aviation that encourage, support and mentor women wishing to enter aviation as a career choice. And of course, here in Toronto, UPN does an incredible job offering support to young professionals, male and female, wishing to enter or advance their careers in aviation. Moreover, there are numerous scholarship opportunities available that can lessen the financial burden of not only flight training, but also lessen the cost of higher education such as college and university. And don't forget, a post-secondary school education will open

positive impact this brings to teamwork and continuous improvement. My career experiences have served me well. As a flight attendant, our training in safety and security protocols was intense and rigorous. As a result, I gained a strong appreciation of the integrated role each crew member contributes to ensure a safe and efficient flight. This includes the need to fully learn about aircraft systems, operating procedures and regulatory requirements, and to apply the knowledge in a disciplined manner. Thankfully, I carried-over that same discipline and rigor into my flight training, and beyond.

doors and provide valuable career options, you would never have thought possible.

As always, always, always, network with your peers and others in the industry. As my father always told me, "you need to get out more!"

Allison Couch

The Zoom logo, consisting of the word "zoom" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered on a solid blue rectangular background.

ZOOM ZOOM!!

Our membership meeting on April 10th was a success, with 25 of our members participating! We know engagement can be tough, especially with COVID-19 putting up many barriers. As such, there will be a pop-up ZOOM meeting in the coming weeks, open to all those who are available to participate. It will be informal in nature, and is designed for us to see each other, open up and just chat. We look forward to your participation!

PERSPECTIVES

[I Remain Optimistic (Part 1)]

Personally, like many enrolled, becoming a commercial pilot is a longtime dream. As I progress through high school and eventually transition into the journey of becoming a pilot, I am well aware that courses, assignments and daily schedules



Optimism is a key feature when chasing dreams and truly accomplishing them. Along with other things like motivation, courage and support. Remaining optimistic is the gas to the fire of hope. Like many dreams, becoming a pilot is truly a difficult task. Many, if not all pilots will agree that becoming any type of aircraft pilot requires lots of focus, energy, and most importantly determination. As many dream jobs stem from childhood, completely abandoning them due to the hard work needed to achieve the goal would truly bring great regret down the line.

As previously stated, becoming a pilot is hard, yes, as it is for many professions. However, the benefits, experiences, and memories are remarkable. Piloting, air traffic control, aircraft maintenance and many other aviation-related professions have a great level of respect worldwide. Not many jobs give you the opportunity to travel the world, maintain sophisticated machines, or protect and guide the ones who fly on them. It is truly something to brag about as well as a memorable treasure.

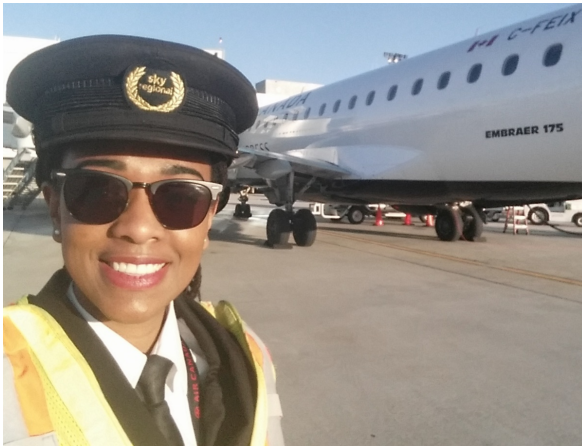
will become more intense and stricter. However, throughout the thickest of times, I will remain optimistic, pushing myself to do my very best.

My love and passion for aviation are not one to be "reckoned" with. This love and passion are what's pushing me each and every single day. As a wise man once said, "if your dreams do not scare you, then they are not dreaming big enough", and believe me, my dreams do scare me. I am always looking forward to that day when I'm told I'm in control or my first solo flight, or even more importantly, receiving my licences - the list continues.

These hopes and dreams are another major part of why I never give up. Each day, I look up in the sky, smile, and tell myself 'one day, that'll be me up there'. One day I'll say "you did it". But of course, I must remain patient because the path to accomplishing big dreams takes time – nothing good happens overnight.

Though many ask if I will be able to deal with the downsides of being a commercial pilot, for that, I always keep in mind that all big dreams have their cons. However, the real question is - are you ready for the challenge?

Kimani Hayden



Girls' Leadership Conference 2021 - In Review

On April 27, 2021, I had the honour of presenting alongside two other UPN members, Allison Couch and Lahou Keita, at the Girls' Leadership Conference for Sandalwood Heights Secondary School. This conference was created to support elementary aged girls in the transition to high school. By sharing wisdom, career options, and barriers we have overcome in our respective careers, the goal was to empower and uplift girls that are finding their own path in life during a challenging time. The pandemic has been particularly difficult on these girls aged 12 - 14, as they are faced with isolation, online education, and staying motivated all while transitioning into high school and contemplating their future in uncertain times.

My role along with Allison Couch and Lahou Keita was to represent The Urban Pilots Network. My presentation centered on my passion for aviation, the challenges associated with this career, why aviation is male-dominated, personal attitudes necessary for success, and post-secondary pathways to becoming a pilot. The reception of my presentation was very warm and there were many questions about life as a pilot, my experiences, and options to pursue aviation.

This experience was an amazing opportunity to interact with young girls growing up in the same region as I did and who are facing the same challenges I had at that age, plus some. Young girls are figuring out who they are, what they want, and building a support system to achieve those goals. Now, more than ever, we need to come together as a community and support our neighbours, youth, and community as a whole. During these times we must work together and share our knowledge and experiences to help uplift others and remind them there will be a time after the pandemic. I am incredibly grateful to share what I have learned over the years, share my passion for education, aviation, and The Urban Pilots Network.

Zoey Williams

PERSPECTIVES [I Remain Optimistic (Part 2)]

It was only after my parents made me realize that if I apply myself, in the same manner that I apply myself to aviation, there was no way that I could not be successful! In the same manner that I would watch aviation videos on YouTube, under the covers at night, in the same way that I would rush outside my house when I heard an airplane, in that same manner of commitment and passion, success would come to fruition, if I applied myself. From this lesson, I gained



In the face of adversity, failure, setback, denial, and obstacles, I remain optimistic, but not because of hope. Over my youth, I have learned many lessons, many of them through experience, although one word has changed my mentality: "hope". I have understood that to not succumb to the challenges that will certainly arise in life, this word must be removed from my vocabulary. This is because life will ask the most of you when you are at your worst, and the difference between the individuals who work hard and the individuals who are hard workers, is that hard workers will give 120% regardless of the circumstance. When the sun is shining and everything is looking good, that is when most people are ready to go, but what matters is when it is dark, when nobody's watching, when you're tired, sick, or upset, that is when it matters because at that point motivation, on its own is not enough, discipline is your mentality.

From as young as 10 months, my heart has been set on aviation, and to this day I live and breathe aviation! On Saturday mornings, after a long week at school, at 5 am, my passion would wake me up and my mom would take me to Toronto Pearson airport to go plane spotting. The first lesson that I learned in my journey was the lesson

integrity and honesty, two qualities that have formed me into the leader I am today. These qualities demanded me to act when the outcome of a situation was not as I initially intended. They forced me to attack the very thing that knocked me down.

Action is what foresees an outcome, not just hope, and at the age of 12 I took a major step towards commencing my career in aviation; I joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Over 5 years I worked consistently to earn a position in the Power Pilot Scholarship (PPS) program. In those 5 years, I was denied aviation opportunities repeatedly. Finally, in my last year of cadets, the studying, the hard work, the late nights all seemed to be worth it, I earned a spot on the PPS, but shortly thereafter, the world stopped.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to its knees. 5 years of commitment seemed to have been rendered useless. Despite the disappointment, this is where my latest lesson of life was learned! I understood that setbacks are part of my journey. I understood that in these moments I must decide to either quit or continue and at 10 months old, when I took my first flight, it was then that I decided, that I would NEVER turn back!

I realized early in my life that I must focus on my craft every day to achieve it, I must be willing to do things that make me uncomfortable, I must be willing to do things that I have no idea about, to achieve my dream. It is the culmination of these experiences, sacrifices, delaying gratification, where we will reap the reward. So, I remain optimistic in the face of the unknown, because after all, I must, to make my dream a reality. I remain optimistic because I will not quit, NEVER! See you in the skies!

Aiden Alexander Charles Parkins

of ownership. Early in school, even early into high school, my grades were average.

PERSPECTIVES "SURVIVING"

While reflecting on my time in aviation, I always seem to come back to an old refrain from James Taylor's hit song "Fire and Rain". Certainly, many youth now entering the field will not have heard of the song, let alone the artist, but here I have modified some of the lyrics to make it fit into our world of aviation. When you get the chance, YouTube the song to hear it sung in its purest form by Mr. Taylor.

***"I've seen storms and I've seen rain,
I've seen VFR days that I thought would
never end,
I've seen tough times when I could not
share flight costs with a friend,
But I always thought that flying would be
good again"***



My decision to pursue a career in aviation dates back to the late 1970's and stretches into the early part of the 1980's. For those familiar with the times, you will note that it represented the deepest economic recession since World War II, at the time. Times were tough, especially for a recent immigrant, from the Caribbean, with 6 wonderful mouths to feed, excluding mine. Yes, I do have 5 siblings, and we all came to Canada at the same time (during a vicious spring snowstorm), and we looked out for each other, but times were tough, nonetheless.

Due to the dismal economic outlook, I was told by many, too many to count, that there were no jobs in aviation and to seek a vocation which offered a greater chance of employment. Being laser focused, and the often-stubborn person that I am, I chose not to sell myself short and, without hesitation, continued on my chosen path.

Fast forward a few years and I was accepted in aviation college for flight training - things were looking up! However, shortly after obtaining my Private Pilot's Licence, albeit while managing to work 3 jobs, I injured my knee while playing basketball and had to change my course to Avionics Technician. Remaining adaptable, I completed this course, on my brief detour, and after a few years working in this field, I returned to my intended path and completed my Commercial Pilot's Licence and Instructor Endorsement. From there I was able to utilize my instructor rating in Oshawa for 2 years, prior to moving on to fly Medevac in Northern Ontario.

In the late 1980s, I finally had the chance of a lifetime, and completed an interview with Air Canada. To my surprise, after the interview, I was placed in a hiring pool, and to make matters worse, shortly thereafter, the world experienced another deep recession. There were layoffs, cuts, and yes, that lovely hiring pool evaporated as a result.

Economic recovery began with hiring in summer 1995 and only a “mere” 6+ years after my initial interview with Air Canada, I landed my dream job in 1996, as a First Officer on the venerable DC-9. Through the many detours, I finally made it, and Air Canada was so short pilots at that time that I never saw reserve as a First Officer on the DC-9. After 18 months on this beautiful machine, I had the absolute pleasure of flying the Queen of Skies, the Boeing 747 Classic. Within 4 short years at Air Canada, I slid over to the left seat of the DC-9, and prior to this most recent downturn, I have experienced an exceptional career. During my time at Air Canada, alongside the types listed, I have had the pleasure of flying the Airbus A320, Boeing 767 and I am currently a Captain on the Boeing 777, Air Canada’s Flagship.

Yes, “I’ve seen storms and I’ve seen rain” and it has always been a wonderful sight from 35,000 ft. Yes, there will be “VFR days that you think would never end” but this pandemic has highlighted that even the most beautiful days can see dark clouds. Irrespective of, flying will pick up again and with it, so will hiring. We are already seeing signs of recovery, with our neighbours to the south, so my advice is to remain prepared and be ready to fill those seats when the time arises, including the one I am about to relinquish, in a few short years.

Bad times come and although they are tough, they don’t last. So, I urge you not to lament on the current state of the industry but to look ahead. There is no shortage of pent-up demand, to go out and explore, to see the world, to visit our loved ones, hang out on a beach in the middle of our long winters, to see the Eiffel Tower and visit the Louvre Museum, to see the Parthenon and of course, the beginning of civilization itself, within Mother Africa. People simply want to go, so look ahead, to a future where you will be the one “driving” them there.

In closing, I will always use the Jamaican saying, “when times get tough, the tough get going” and of course, my favorite, “every cloud has a silver lining”. So please, do not dwell on the happening of today, look ahead and see that there is a time of growth about to begin and you are going to play a substantial role in it, all while fulfilling your dreams.

We can “survive” this together!

Captain Orrett Williams

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good day members:

I hope this message finds you well, especially considering the year it has been! These last 18 months have been like no other and have given us all a new perspective on life, family and what we consider to be valuable. It has also forced us to look at the lives we led before and appreciate all the things we took for granted, and some of the things that



consumed more of our time and attention than was warranted. I hope that all of this reflection has helped you determine what really matters to you.

Are you happy; are you pursuing happiness; and are you doing enough to get to a state of happiness? The fact that you are all here at UPN tells me that we are all in the pursuit of happiness (or at least one cog in the wheel of happiness). We are here pursuing our dreams, whether that is in the flight deck of an airliner, the control tower of an airport, or in tearing apart and rebuilding a jet engine, we are all here moving towards our dreams.

This pandemic has slowed our progress substantially, but let's not come to a full stop. Do what you can to keep moving in the right direction and prepare yourself for when the aviation world spools up again. For our members in the early stages of their careers, this is your opportunity to make up some ground on those ahead of you that may not be flying as much. For those of you that are

further along in your careers, stay ready!

Some of us have managed to continue flying while others have had to find other means to create income while the aviation world is at a crawl. We have seen slowdowns in this industry before (9/11, SARS, Bird Flu), and although this pandemic trumps them all, the good news is that the aviation industry has ALWAYS recovered! We are starting to see signs of life, and it is very encouraging! I hope that this trend will increase and continue as the summer progresses, and that some of our colleagues will begin to receive their call back to work; that our students can continue their training and obtain the licences and ratings they require; and that our industry will begin to move again and give everyone the opportunity to continue on that path to their dreams.

Here, at UPN, it has been a particularly trying year. As mentioned in our Zoom members meeting, our leadership team is always focused on helping our members achieve their dreams, as well as spreading the word about aviation opportunities for the racialized youth in our communities. Anything that prevents us from doing this, or even slows us down, is felt deeply by our leadership team. We are continuously trying to create and implement programs for our youth, and our members to help them along that aforementioned path.

The pandemic has definitely thrown the proverbial wrench in the operation, however, that being said, we were able to accomplish a great many things throughout. We were able to host an Interview & Resume Preparation course for our members with Jeff Gill from Sunwing Airlines, and the HR department from Jazz. We transitioned from in person member meetings to an online Zoom format. We were also able to work with Transport Canada to host a webinar, and we joined forces with Women in Aviation to do so. We are in collaboration with different agencies to launch our Top Flyers Canada Program and are currently pursuing funding to put it into motion. We have had members participate in various online virtual seminars, and we just concluded an online summer camp with Youth

Taking Flight. Beyond programming, we were also able to complete our UPN elections in February and we are in the midst of evaluating potential winners for our scholarship program.

All that being said, UPN has had to deviate around the pandemic to reach our end goal, and I hope that you were all able to do the same. To assist, we have extended all memberships to March 2022 and from that point forward, March will continue to be our membership renewal month. We are doing what we can, and I hope that you are doing what you can. With UPN as your aviation family, let's work through this together!

So, with positive signs for our industry in sight, I say as always,

Walk Good, & Fly Safe.

First Officer Warren Holt
President & Membership Director

THE DEBRIEF!

SO HOW DID WE DO?

Our goal is to keep improving and providing content that you find enriching and useful. Do you have an idea, concept or a specific piece that you would like to submit for our next newsletter? We would love to hear from you! Feel free to reach out to us at urbanpilotsnet@hotmail.com with ****NEWSLETTER**** in the subject line.



We look forward to hearing from you!

Urban Pilots Network
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