



Dear flight attendant colleagues,

My name is Martyn Smith; I'm an Air Transat Flight Attendant, also the Air Transat Component President, and the new CUPE Airline Division President, representing over 10,000 Canadian Cabin Crew members from Air Transat, Air Canada, First Air, Sunwing, Calm Air, Canadian North and Cathay Pacific.

I accepted this responsibility only a few weeks ago, and I'm absolutely honored and humbled by the legacy and hard work of the many flight attendant activists who held this position before me. I hope that I will live up to our members expectations, and promise to keep up the fight for better, safer and fairer working conditions on behalf of all flight attendants in Canada going forward.

Today is Labour Day, which I've been celebrating with all my heart for as long as I can remember. Labour Day is the National Holiday where we officially celebrate and value the immense daily contributions provided by millions of regular, hard-working Canadians, all too often without the praise, respect and recognition they deserve. It's also a day where we remember the decades of struggles fought by those who came before us to elevate our professions, increase our salaries, improve our working conditions, our health, and our safety while also fighting for equality, human rights and fair treatment. These battles waged by our predecessors in the labour movement are so easily forgotten, and our gains are routinely taken for granted, and yet we deserve to be profoundly thankful for these years of determination and sacrifice, because without them we would be far worse off today.

Much has been fought for and won for flight attendants in Canada in past decades, and yet there remain many challenges and battles ahead for the members of our professional community. With the solidarity of CUPE's 650,000+ Canadian members, we will continue fighting against the 1:50 regulatory change while also combatting crew fatigue, cosmic radiation, cabin air contamination, and many other important issues. And we will continue working to elevate our profession to the wider public, while also lobbying for greater respect from our employers, despite continuing changes to the airline industry.

And despite our different employers, we will continue building on our greater sense of professional solidarity as Canadian flight attendants, as recognized and valued safety professionals, and as unofficial ambassadors of Canada to the global community.

Thank you all for your work and dedication, and Happy Labour Day.

In Solidarity,

Martyn Smith

President of the Airline Division of CUPE