

President's Message

Furious - and they have a Right to Be!

Air Canada walked away from long-term agreements with fuel providers in Montreal and Toronto this past week. Our members have a right to feel angry and betrayed!

Three years into a ten-year agreement with CAFAS (Consolidated Aviation Fueling and Services) in Montreal, Air Canada opted out with no discussion, no chance for alternative arrangements and no warning for the workers. The result was the elimination of 90 per cent of the IAM workforce. The new supplier, Swissport, who have no experience with fueling, will offer, on average \$8.00/hour less and no pension, to do the same job.

The Air Canada agreement with CAFAS in Montreal wasn't worth the paper it was written on.

In Toronto, Consolidated Aviation was naïve enough to take Air Canada at its word. Air Canada had led Consolidated Aviation to believe that it would be their sole supplier. It meant nothing and should serve as a warning to others who deal with Canada's national carrier.

Air Canada is responsible for more than 60 per cent of the fuel volume at Pearson and for more than fifty years the Montreal-Toronto Fuel consortium has provided first class service. So why the change?

Greed! As soon as Air Canada made its intentions known, other users of the Fuel Consortium followed suit, first West Jet, then Air Transat and other airlines soon followed. There was no discussion, no chance for an alternative agreement and no compassion for the workers it would affect. Many of our IAM members will be forced to accept a new job that pays significantly less with fewer benefits and no pension or face unemployment.

Should you be furious? Should you feel betrayed? You're damn right you should!