

# WINGS CHAMBER



Picture: L/R: Dale Lawrence, Chief of Staff - PATA; Tim Devill, Correspondent - Outside magazine and New York Times, contributor - USA; Yan Han Deputy Secretary-General - World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF), China; Peter Debrine, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Tourism - UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Headquarters, France; Jake Haupt Co-Founder - The Transformational Travel Collaborative and Founder - Evergreen Escapes / EG-X, USA; Marcus Allender, Business Development Director - Pegu Travels and Founder - Go-Myanmar.com, Myanmar; Natasha Martin, Tourism Consultant - Solimar International; Dr. Kristin Lamoureux, Executive Director - SAVE Travel Alliance and Sustainable Tourism Consultant, USA; Tom McShane, Operations Director - Secret Compass, UK; Dr. Mario Hardy, CEO - PATA; Andrew Jones, Chairman - PATA; Michel Julian, Technical Coordinator, Tourism Market Trends - World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); Dr. Philippe Duverger, Associate Professor - Towson University, USA; and Matt Gibson CEO - UpThink

## Brandon Mitchener Appointed EBAA CEO



Mitchener has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA), effective 3 April 2017. A French and US citizen, Mitchener's career as a journalist and public affairs professional spans more than 25 years in Europe, including the last 20 in Brussels.

joining EBAA, Mitchener headed corporate communications for Monsanto Co. in Europe and the Middle East for four years, where he helped position agricultural technology as part of the solution to global food security challenges. Prior to this, he served as director of public relations EMEA for First Solar Inc., where he launched the company's corporate communications presence in India, China, Thailand and Vietnam. Mitchener's experience also includes working as a European public affairs consultant at APCO Worldwide for four years, advising a variety of blue-chip companies, business associations, non-profit organisations and governments on relations with the EU, the media and other stakeholders.

## PATA CREATES NEW BOUNDARIES OF ADVENTURE TOURISM IN LUOYANG, HENAN, CHINA

The [PATA Adventure Travel Conference and Mart 2017](#) (ATCM 2017) in conjunction with the Luoyang Adventure Tourism and Equipment Expo ended on Monday, April 4, 2017 in Luoyang, Henan province, China with over 500 delegates from 36 countries in attendance for the three-day niche event.

The event, which brought together pioneers, thought leaders and change-drivers that are shaping the emerging landscape of the adventure travel industry, was organised by the [Pacific Asia Travel Association](#) (PATA) in conjunction with the Henan Provincial Tourism Administration and Luoyang Municipal People's Government and was executed by the Luoyang Municipal Tourism Committee and Beijing Sunny International Communications Ltd.

PATA CEO Dr. Mario Hardy said, "The event provided the perfect opportunity for delegates to build their businesses, to network and to gain valuable insights about

the fast-expanding adventure travel sector. The one-day Mart was conducted in a vibrant and positive atmosphere with very encouraging results. Our one-day conference was informative, educational and enlightening and I was delighted that we were able to attract so many knowledgeable guest speakers to address the delegates." ATCM 2017 began with the one-day B2B mart on Sunday April 2 with 79 seller organisations representing 14 countries (Bhutan, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Korea (ROK), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Using PATA's effective business matching software these Sellers together conducted over 3,000 pre-matched face-to-face appointments with Buyers from 61 buyer organisations in 15 countries (Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States). .....More on Pg 2



## Indian foreign investors top the UAE realty market with Dh12 billion worth of property transactions from 6,263 buyers

*The total real estate investments last year reached Dh91 billion from 55,928 investors*

*At the International Property Show, Indian investors will have an opportunity to access some of the best properties in town*

Indians have by far remained the most prolific foreign investors into Dubai realty. As per the data from Government of Dubai's Land Department (DLD), the total real estate investments last year reached Dh91 billion from 55,928 investors. Indians ranked highest in terms of both volume and value among foreign investors with Dh12 billion worth of property transactions from 6,263 buyers.

In an effort to attract more investments from Indians, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Property Show which will be held from April 2nd to 4th this year at Dubai World Trade Centre will have some of the best properties on display.

"The UAE's safe haven status, stable economic growth and bottomed out prices have been the key factors for attracting Indian realty investments in Dubai. In addition, many Indians find Dubai as their base for business between India and the wider Europe and Middle East," said Dawood Al Shezawi, CEO, Strategic Marketing & Exhibitions, organizers of the International Property Show.

Dubai is increasingly becoming a hot favourite destination with Indians for a number of reasons including high capital gains, great return on investment, tax-free environment, proximity to India, and transparent deals amongst many others

"The profits on properties in Dubai in the form of rents and resale are high. The Dubai realty market has everything on offer - from high-end luxury to affordable housing, making it a perfect destination for Indian investments. This year's edition of International Property Show will have some of the best properties on offer, allowing serious Indian buyers to make deals and agreements right at the show," added Dawood Al Shezawi.

Supported by the Dubai Land Department (DLD), International Property Show is a platform for both international and local real estate markets to showcase their residential, commercial and mixed-use real estate products and to conduct serious transactional business. The 13th edition of the International Property Show is expected to be the biggest since its return, with over 200 exhibitors from 50 countries to participate.

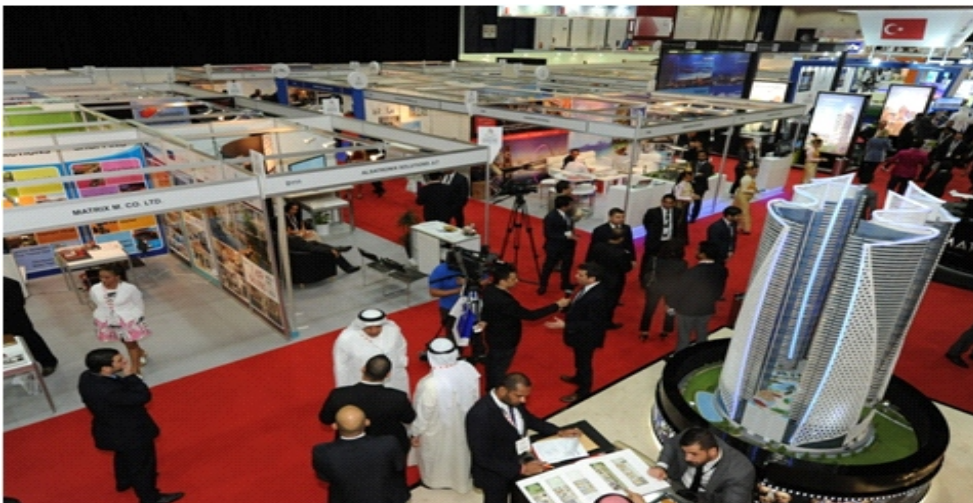
It was noted that while the investments from Indians spearheaded the Dubai realty market, GCC citizens contributed Dh35 billion from 12,768 investors, of which 3,294 investors from Saudi Arabia made transactions worth Dh8 billion. Pakistan contributed Dh4.4 billion from 3,372 investors, while British investments amounted to Dh5.8 billion from 3,372 investors.

.....From Pg 1

On Monday April 3, delegates heard from a diverse line-up of international speakers at the one-day conference under the theme 'Create, Connect, Conserve'. The 22 speakers from nine countries explored the nuances, trends and dynamics of the adventure travel industry under various conference topics that covered 'One Belt, One Road the Ultimate Connector', 'Connecting destinations to information: the Adventure Travel Development Index', 'Create, Connect, Conserve: The case study of Luoyang', 'Creating new boundaries of adventure tourism experiences', and 'Equipping a destination'.

The speakers represented such authoritative bodies as the Academy of Longmen Grottoes of Luoyang; the Center for Tourism Research of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; the China Association for The Promotion of Development Financing, China Great Wall Protection; China National Tourism Administration; Decathlon; Evergreen Escapes; Go-Myanmar.com, SAVE Travel Alliance; Secret Compass; Solimar International; Towson University; UNESCO; UpThink; World Tourism Cities Federation, and the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Dr. Mario Hardy concluded, "The delegates departed China with a much greater appreciation about the city of Luoyang and the many tourism treasures, including the Longmen Grottoes and Shaolin Temple, located in Henan province. This cradle of Chinese civilisation is now firmly on the map as an exciting destination for adventure travel enthusiasts."





## PATA to hold first event in United Arab Emirates

The PATA Adventure Travel and Responsible Tourism Conference and Mart 2018 will take place in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Al Ain is one of the world's oldest permanently inhabited settlements and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The PATA Adventure Travel and Responsible Tourism Conference and Mart 2018 is a three day niche event with both conference and travel mart components, bringing together public and private sector tourism professionals involved in adventure travel and responsible tourism. Key elements of this annual event are environmental protection and social sustainability with special focus on empowerment of local communities.

This is the first [Pacific Asia Travel Association \(PATA\)](#) event to be held in the UAE and the only event to be staged in West Asia in the last 14 years.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for PATA members and for the adventure travel sector at large. Al Ain is a truly fascinating destination with a wealth of culture, heritage and opportunities for adventure travel,” said PATA CEO Dr. Mario Hardy. “Connectivity is easy via the award-winning Abu Dhabi International Airport. Al Ain, together with the surrounding landscape, has so much to offer travellers of all ages. This event provides an exceptional platform for travel trade professionals to learn much more about this compelling city and region.”

Commenting on the selection of Al Ain to host the event, HE Saif Saeed Ghobash, Director General of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, the government body responsible for the promotion of the emirate said: “Abu Dhabi has experienced significant growth in guest arrivals from countries within the PATA region in recent years, especially from India and China, and since

joining the association we have been working with PATA members to place greater emphasis on seeding growth in visitor arrivals from these priority source markets “Over the past few years, Abu Dhabi has built up a successful track record in hosting and securing international meetings, including annual congress meetings from international travel associations. Delegates attending the PATA Adventure Travel and Responsible Tourism Conference and Mart 2018 in Al Ain will enjoy the diversity of mountain, desert and oasis landscapes and exhilarating adventure attractions, all complemented by rich historical sites, a state-of-the-art conference centre and outstanding hotels of all categories,” he added.

Al Ain is known as the heritage heartland of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The city has become an increasingly popular business events destination, boasting 18 hotels and hotel apartments with over 2,000 rooms and dedicated facilities at the Al Ain Convention Centre.

Located at an important historical crossroads of trade, different locations in Al Ain are now classified by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites, including its six oases and the archaeological sites of Hafeet, Hili and Bida bint Saud. Al Ain oasis - with its cool, shady walkways and a 3,000-year-old falaj irrigation system - is the first component of the UNESCO World Heritage site to open to the public,

Al Ain city abounds in picturesque forts, including one of the United Arab Emirates' most historic and picturesque buildings, Al Jahili Fort, erected in 1891 to defend the city and protect precious palm groves; Qasr Al Muwajji, a world-class museum and birthplace of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; Al Ain Palace Museum, the former home of the late UAE founder, Sheikh Zayed

Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the redeveloped Al Qattara Fort which is now home to a brilliant arts centre and gallery. Visitors can also immerse themselves in the city's rich culture and heritage with a visit to Al Ain National Museum which displays various aspects of UAE life, including archaeological finds, Bedouin jewellery and traditional musical instrument collections.

The city skyline is dominated by the dramatic rocky heights of Jebel Hafeet. Rising to a height of 1,240 metres, this is the Emirate's highest peak and the second highest in the UAE. With the mountain as a backdrop Al Ain Zoo's man-made African safari also features the Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre and a dedicated mini-museum with galleries of interactive, immersive, and informative exhibits exploring themes of environmental and species conservation.

Visitors can also take a trip to Wadi Adventure, the region's only man-made white water rafting, kayaking and surfing facility built in the foothills of the majestic Jebel Hafeet. The park's 3.3 metre man-made surf wave is the world's largest and its 1.7 kilometre kayaking channel network is the world's longest. For a taste of the fast track, Al Ain Raceway features a 1.6 km go-kart circuit.

The PATA Adventure Travel and Responsible Tourism Conference and Mart is an annual event that offers a platform for sellers and buyers involved in the world of adventure travel and responsible tourism to secure new business and to consolidate existing contracting relationships via PATA's well-proven system of pre-matched appointments. It is an excellent opportunity to create new experiences and to share new opportunities with global tourism professionals.

# VECTOR AEROSPACE SIGNS CONTRACT WITH THE ITALIAN GUARDIA DI FINANZA FOR ROLLS-ROYCE M250 ENGINE MRO

**Dallas, TX** Vector Aerospace ([www.vectoraerospace.com](http://www.vectoraerospace.com)), a global independent provider of aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services, has signed a two-year engine support contract with the *Comando Generale della Guardia di Finanza* (Italian Financial Police).

The contract covers the maintenance, repair and overhaul of Rolls-Royce M250 engines installed on the agency's fleet of NH500 light turbine helicopters, a locally produced version of the MD Helicopters MD 500. This is the first major contract to be awarded to Vector Aerospace by a branch of the Italian government.

“We are pleased to sign this contract with the Italian Financial Police, and we look forward to providing outstanding support to our new and valued customer over the next two years,” said Craig Plum, Vice President, Sales, Rotary-Wing at Vector Aerospace.

Vector Aerospace has over 25 years of experience supporting the Rolls-Royce M250 series of engines as an Authorized Maintenance Repair and Overhaul Center (AMROC), with full capability in Richmond, BC, Canada and with branch locations in Dallas, TX USA and Fleetlands, Gosport, UK. Vector offers complete MRO support for the M250 product line, including borescope inspection, failure analysis, freewheel shaft R&O, model conversions, in-house test capability and global field service support. Vector also offers its customers a pool of lease and exchange M250 engines and engine parts.

In addition, Vector is a Honeywell Authorized Repair & Overhaul Center for fuel control units and power turbine governors on M250 series engines, and a Triumph Engine Control Systems Authorized Repair & Overhaul Center for hydromechanical units (HMUs) on M250-C47/C40 series engines.

Vector Aerospace is a global provider of aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services. Through facilities in Canada the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, South Africa, Kenya and Singapore, Vector Aerospace provides services to commercial and military customers for gas turbine engines, components and helicopter airframes. Vector's customer-focused team includes over 2,200 motivated employees.

Vector Aerospace holds approvals from some of the world's leading turbine engine, airframe and avionics OEMs. Powerplants supported include a wide range of turboshafts, turboprops and turbofans from General Electric, Honeywell, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Rolls-Royce and Safran. Vector Aerospace also provides support for a wide range of airframes from Airbus Helicopters, Bell, Boeing, Leonardo Helicopters and Sikorsky, its capabilities including major inspections and dynamic component overhaul, and offers full-service avionics capability, including aircraft rewiring, mission equipment installation and glass cockpit upgrades.







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## MERIDIAN ACQUIRES NEW HANGAR AT TETERBORO AIRPORT

Meridian, the award-winning private aviation company headquartered at Teterboro Airport, is pleased to announce that it has expanded its footprint with the acquisition of the former AIG hangar at the south end of the airport. The impeccably maintained facility sits on approximately two acres and includes a 22,000 sq. ft. hangar as well as 11,500 sq. ft. of office and support space. Officially known as Meridian Hangar 107, the building is a welcome addition to the Meridian campus, providing the extra space and resources needed to support its bustling fuel, maintenance, and charter operations. Currently, Meridian's main facility is located at 485 Industrial Avenue, which includes a 40,000 sq. ft. hangar and a 30,000 sq. ft. Terminal.

The company is also constructing a brand new 40,000 sq. ft. hangar with 10,000 sq. ft. of office and support space at the airport. The project is being built up the street at 125 Industrial Avenue and is replacing an outdated 20,000 sq. ft. hangar that was built in 1956. The new facility is expected to be operational by December 2017.

Steve Chandoha, President, was enthusiastic about the new acquisition. "Teterboro Airport is surrounded by development with limited opportunities to expand, so we are extremely grateful to be able to add this well-maintained facility to our network. This state-of-the-art hangar and additional ramp space will afford us greater flexibility with our customers, especially during

gridlock periods when our capacity is challenged. Now we have more options to fuel, park, and hangar aircraft, which translates into better service for our customers." Meridian is a full-service, private aviation company headquartered at Teterboro Airport (TEB) in Teterboro, NJ, located just minutes from New York City. Meridian owns and operates businesses that include Air Charter Aircraft Management, Aircraft Maintenance and two world-class Executive Terminals / FBOs. In 2016, the company opened its second FBO at Hayward Executive Airport (HWD) in Hayward, CA. Meridian also has charter sales offices located at Van Nuys Airport (VNY) and Sonoma County Airport (STS) in California.

Meridian has earned numerous industry awards and accolades for its exceptional service and high safety standards, including 2016 Top Rated FBO in Northeast by AIN FBO Survey; 2016 Top US FBO in Northeast by FltPlan.com; 2016 Best FBO at TEB by Professional Pilot PRASE Survey; 2016 Best CSRs by Professional Pilot PRASE Survey (#3 for Betsy Wines and #5 for Victor Seda); ARG/US Platinum Rated; IS-BAO Registered (Stage 2); Wyvern Wingman Certified.

The new hangar acquired by Meridian was impeccably maintained and sits on approximately two acres at Teterboro Airport. The facility includes a 22,000 sq. ft. hangar as well as 11,500 sq. ft. of office and support space.

### MERIDIAN JET CENTER NOW CERTIFIED ON BOMBARDIER GLOBALS

Meridian, the award-winning private aviation company headquartered at Teterboro Airport, is pleased to announce that its FAA approved repair station is now fully authorized to inspect and repair the Bombardier Global series of aircraft.

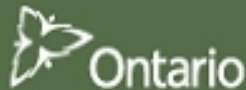
This authorization is a significant addition to the wide range of other business jets for which Meridian Jet Center has been certified including models from Cessna, Dassault, Hawker, and Gulfstream. The Bombardier models added to Meridian's operations specifications are the Global Express BD-700-1A10 and the Global 5000 BD-700-1A11. Operations specifications for all certified aircraft are available on the Maintenance page of the Meridian website.

John Langschultz, VP of Maintenance, was excited about the recent certification. "We now have the ability to perform inspections and repairs on the entire series of Global models, which is critical if you plan to serve the ultra-long range segment. As business jets continue to get larger, and the market for large cabin aircraft continues to grow, we must expand our service offerings in order to remain competitive and continue to serve our customers at a high level."



Canada

Manitoba



## Help Recruit Ontario's First Chief Science Officer Province Supporting Science and Innovation

Ontario is seeking [public input](#) on the skills and experience they would like to see in the province's first Chief Science Officer, and how this role could strengthen science and innovation across the province.

Feedback will be used to develop the mandate and help decide how the Chief Science Officer will:

Accelerate Ontario's science and research and make this province a top destination for global research talent

Develop the long-term vision and strategic research agenda for Ontario to help address challenges and reach scientific frontiers in Canada and around the world Help the government make decisions on science-based policy issues by relying on evidence and research

Cement Ontario's reputation as a jurisdiction that believes investing in knowledge and science is the key to success and prosperity People can share their feedback online at [Ontario.ca/ChiefScienceOfficer](http://Ontario.ca/ChiefScienceOfficer) or via [email](#) by March 27, 2017. Ontario will report back on what we heard during this consultation in spring 2017.

Supporting research and innovation is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

### QUICK FACTS

Ontario is the largest life sciences jurisdiction in Canada with more than 50 per cent of the total Canadian life sciences economic activity.

The life sciences sector employs approximately 60,000 people in Ontario.

Since 2003, Ontario has committed close to \$1.6 billion towards more than 2,400 research projects through the [Ontario Research Fund](#).

Recruiting a Chief Science Officer is part of Ontario's five-year, \$400-million [Business Growth Initiative](#) that is helping to grow the economy and create jobs by promoting an innovation-based economy, helping small companies scale-up and modernizing regulations for businesses.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Chief Science Officer Consultation Page](#)  
[Business Growth Initiative](#)

### QUOTES

"Everyone in Ontario can help decide the mandate of our province's first Chief Science Officer. Not only is it important the search be open and transparent, but everyone should have a voice on how a Chief Science Officer would best serve the science community and Ontario."

*Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science*

Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science  
<http://www.mri.gov.on.ca/english/Default.asp>

### Supporting New Discoveries and Fostering Innovation

*Ontario Investing in 75 Research  
Projects Across the Province*

Ontario is supporting 75 projects at leading institutions across the province to help scientists discover new technologies, treatments and cures for diseases while creating high-quality jobs for people in the province.

Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science, was at Queen's University in Kingston today to announce the recipients of the Ontario Research Fund. Queen's University is one of many research institutions across the province receiving funding for projects such as creating cost-effective and environmentally friendly ways to generate renewable energy for daily use.

The investment will also support other initiatives across the province including:

Developing new health technologies to improve hearing assessments and environmental solutions to handle mine wastewater

Supporting infrastructure needs such as modern facilities and equipment to keep up with technology, and remain competitive

Promoting the use of genomics to solve health issues, such as common childhood cancers

Supporting the development of disruptive innovation in the field of genomics such as technology to support biomedical research

This funding will also drive the province's ability to attract and retain the world's top research talent

Supporting research and innovation is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives

### QUICK FACTS

Ontario is investing \$77 million in 75 projects through this round of the Ontario Research Fund. Projects were evaluated through a rigorous peer review process involving Canadian and international academic and industry experts. The successful projects were chosen based on their research excellence and their economic and societal benefits to Ontario.

Including these awards, Ontario has committed and announced more than \$699 million towards 198 projects through the Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence stream and more than \$959 million towards 2,283 projects through the Ontario Research Fund Research Infrastructure program.

Through the Ontario Research Fund, Ontario provides co-funding for Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) and the Disruptive Innovation in Genomics Competition (DIG). To date, the Ontario Research Fund has invested \$4.4 million in GAPP projects and \$646,611 to the DIG program

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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[How to apply for the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence program](#)

[How to apply for the Ontario Research Fund Research Infrastructure program](#)

### QUOTES

"Research is central to creating knowledge and driving economic growth, which is why Ontario supports world-class research at our postsecondary institutions and research institutes. The Ontario Research Fund allows scientists to conduct globally significant research that can lead to new technologies, treatments for patients, and advances in science while supporting high quality, knowledge-based jobs for Ontarians."

*Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science*



## Putting Consumers First in Ontario

### *Province Taking Action to Help People in their Everyday Lives*

Province Taking Action to Help People in their Everyday Lives

To better protect consumers, Ontario has recently:

Banned the expiry of rewards points based on the passage of time alone Introduced new rules that will ensure towing and storage providers disclose rates, notify drivers of where their vehicle is stored, and provide an itemized invoice Made it easier for consumers to understand the costs and terms of their wireless services contracts and eliminated surprise costs Introduced new rules that will ensure any advertising that includes the price of travel is inclusive of all taxes and fees

Improved how condos are managed and introduced new rules to ensure condo managers are licensed and governed professionally

Ontario is further protecting consumers by introducing legislation that would ban unsolicited, door-to-door sales of certain household appliances, regulate the home inspection industry and introduce new rules for alternative finance services such as payday loans.

Protecting consumers in Ontario is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

### **QUICK FACTS**

The Protecting Rewards Points Act 2016, will ensure that consumers cannot lose the benefit of accrued points on the grounds of an expiry date, although some exceptions may be made in respect to inactive accounts. Ontario has over 800 payday lenders and loan brokers. Since January 1, 2017, Ontario's maximum cost of borrowing a payday loan dropped from \$21 to \$18 per \$100 borrowed.

Door-to-door contracts have been among the top complaints received by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services for some time. Recently, the number of complaints about furnaces and air conditioners have surpassed those received for water heater rentals since the new rules for water heater door-to-door sales came into effect on April 1, 2015.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[Changes to the rewards points rules](#)

[Your rights when getting a payday loan](#)

[Consumer rights on door-to-door sales and home service contracts](#)

[Consumer protection and your home Reforming Ontario's Condo Law](#)

[Your rights when signing a wireless contract](#)

### **QUOTES**

"Our government will continue to develop legislation that will strengthen consumer protections in Ontario, and we will continue to work to inform consumers of their rights and make government work better for everyone in Ontario. "

*Tracy MacCharles,  
Minister of Government and Consumer Services*

### Ontario Boosting Digital and Online Learning for Students

#### **Province Investing in New, Innovative Ways to Teach and Learn with Technology**

Ontario is supporting colleges and universities across the province in developing new and innovative approaches to online and technology enabled learning that best meets the needs of Ontario students.

This year, 45 recipients from universities and colleges across Ontario will receive a broad range of research and innovation grants through eCampusOntario to explore technology enabled learning and highlight best practices in student engagement. Examples of funded projects include:

Studying the use of gaming as a teaching method in science-based fields.

Evaluating the impact of virtual simulations as a means to prepare nursing students for clinical practice, compared to more traditional approaches.

Creating an online space for Indigenous students to virtually gather, record and engage in stories from local Elders.

These new investments in research and innovation will further position Ontario as a leader in the development of evidence-based strategies for online learning.

eCampusOntario is a vital part of Ontario's commitment to invest in postsecondary education that is accessible and that provides people with the skills and training they need to succeed.

Investing in new, innovative learning tools for students is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and help people in their everyday lives.

### **QUICK FACTS**

All publicly-assisted colleges and universities in Ontario are members of eCampusOntario, a not-for-profit corporation that provides access for students to online courses in Ontario postsecondary institutions.

This year 45 project teams will receive Research and Innovation Grants totalling \$2.6 million.

A total of 135 proposals were received and reviewed by volunteer peer evaluators from the college and university sectors

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[ECampusOntario](#)  
[Highly Skilled Workforce](#)  
[Digital Government](#)

### **QUOTES**

"Our government wants Ontario students to have access to high quality education and training so that they have the skills they need to get the jobs of today and tomorrow. Investing in innovative educational methods like technology-enabled learning is one of the ways we can make sure we're providing learning options for students that will help them succeed."

*Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development,  
Minister Responsible for Digital Government*

"Our faculty and instructors are the engines of innovation in our post-secondary institutions. This investment in technology-enabled learning by the government of Ontario will advance knowledge in our province and will lead to the design of engaging programs and courses that will benefit our students and will ultimately contribute to a more highly skilled workforce across Ontario."

*David Porter, CEO eCampusOntario*

## **Canada to welcome Foreign Minister of Czech Republic**

Ottawa, Ontario - Global Affairs Canada Canadians and the Czech people share a long standing and historic relationship. These close personal ties including the shelter of Czech political refugees in 1948 and 1968 have grown to see Canada become a major investor in the Czech Republic's economy, creating middle-class jobs in both countries. The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, today announced that they will welcome Lubomír Zaorálek, the



.....From pg 7

Czech Republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Ottawa on March 20 to 21, 2017. He will be accompanied by a delegation including several Czech business leaders and academics. Following the visit to Ottawa, Minister Zaorálek and his delegation will travel to Vancouver and Toronto for meetings with business leaders.

During their meetings in Ottawa, the ministers will discuss Canada-Czech Republic bilateral relations, defence and security, as well as ways to enhance multi-lateral cooperation. As a member of NATO since 1999 and the European Union since 2004, the Czech Republic is an important European partner for Canada.

Canada's relationship with the EU was under scored in February 2017, when the European Parliament voted to approve the application of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). Canada looks forward to the implementation of both CETA and the SPA this spring, while respecting the Canadian parliamentary process.

## Quotes

"I look forward to welcoming Minister Zaorálek on his first official visit to Canada. Together, we will discuss ways to further cooperation between our people, particularly in the area of international peace and security. Canada and the Czech Republic share over 75 years of friendship, enhanced by a dynamic Czech diaspora in Canada. I am confident that our strong relations will continue to flourish with the application of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Strategic Partnership Agreement."

*Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C.,  
M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs*

"The Czech Republic is a robust commercial partner for Canada, and we enjoy a strong reputation in that country. We look forward to examining ways to increase cooperation across a broad range of areas, including trade and investment. The ratification and implementation of CETA will no doubt deepen our commercial relations with the EU, including the Czech Republic."

*- François-Philippe Champagne,  
Minister of International Trade*

## Statement by Minister Bibeau on International Day of La Francophonie

Ottawa, Ontario - Global Affairs Canada  
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, today issued the following statement:

"This year's theme for International Day of La Francophonie is 'Like it? Share it!'"

"Nearly 10 million Canadians speak French. That means 10 million voices are making themselves heard across the country, overseas and on social media.

"In this digital era, when a simple hashtag can rally thousands of people on every continent, our linguistic duality and our respect for diversity are valuable assets. They help to promote the values of peace and solidarity that link Canada and the other countries in the French-speaking community.

"Among the members of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) are some of the poorest countries on earth. Canada and the IOF must combine their efforts to create a more prosperous, fairer and more equitable world in particular by promoting women's rights and by creating opportunities for a better future for youth.

"I would again like to congratulate the Province of Ontario, which was granted observer status by the IOF at the Madagascar Summit last November. Along with Quebec and New Brunswick, Ontario's presence strengthens Canada's position in the francophone cooperation arena."

## Ontario and Québec Support Clean Water Initiatives in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region

In recognition of the United Nations' World Water Day, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Québec Premier Philippe Couillard released the following statement:

"Water is one of the most valuable resources on our planet and the Great Lakes represent close to 20 per cent of the world's surface fresh water. As the world's largest freshwater system, the Great Lakes, taken together with the St. Lawrence River basin, support more than half of Canada's population. The Great Lakes also support hundreds of thousands of jobs across the region and contribute to tourism.

Protecting our environment and maintaining clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems is essential to our quality of life and to economic prosperity now and in the future. Ontario and Québec have a long-standing commitment to ensuring the environmental health of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River basin while creating economic opportunities in an innovative and sustainable way.

Ontario and Québec will work with neighbouring U.S. states through the [Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers](#) and with other governments of Canada and the United States to find solutions to common challenges that affect businesses, communities and people in the region. Our successful collaboration to date has led to increased water protection and environmental clean-up initiatives, and continued economic growth.

As stewards of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region, Ontario and Québec will continue to work jointly, and with all partners on both sides of the border, to ensure that future generations can enjoy and benefit from the Great Lakes water supply and ecosystem."

## Reminder Minister of International Trade to make important announcement about innovation funding in Canada

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, will be in Montreal on Thursday, March 30, to make an announcement about the Government of Canada's investment in innovation programs. The event will be held at the office of OPAL-RT Technologies Inc., a Canadian company that develops real-time simulation technology used in markets around the world.

**Date:** Thursday, March 30, 2017

**Time:** 3 p.m. ET

**Location:** OPAL-RT Technologies,

Office 2.525, 1751 Richardson Street, Montréal, Québec

For further information, please contact:

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