

Centennial College Downsview Campus Opening
Deputy Mayor Thompson
April 25, 2019

Good afternoon.

I am excited and honoured to be here celebrating this milestone with you.

In 2013, Toronto City Council recognized aerospace as a key economic sector that has positioned Toronto as a world leader in innovation while showcasing our highly-skilled and educated workforce.

I was proud to be co-chair of the Aerospace Campus working Group that was launched with a mandate to bring stakeholders together to encourage the development of the Downsview Hub.

The success we are celebrating today builds on a legacy of almost 100 years of aerospace production and development here at Downsview. It is a result of the close collaboration between the City of Toronto, Centennial College, Canada Lands Company, the Federal and Provincial governments and members of the DAIR consortium whose commitment has turned the Downsview

Aerospace Campus Concept into a reality.

This new hub is anticipated to improve the competitiveness of Toronto's and Canada's aerospace sectors in a number of ways.

First, it will act as a catalyst to cluster development which is proven to increase collaboration and innovation between the industry and academia.

It will provide access to our highly-qualified labour market by bridging the gap between the organizations that

educate people and those that hire them.

It will boost SME and supply chain development by making it easier for current and aspiring suppliers to connect with OEMs and other Hub participants.

Finally, it will attract foreign investment and strengthen Toronto's reputation globally as a leader in the aerospace sector.

And this is only one chapter in the rich history of aerospace at Downsview.

There are many exciting chapters to come as work continues on additional elements of the campus including the Innovation Centre, and the re-location of the UofT Institute for Aerospace Studies to Downsview.

So as we celebrate this important milestone let us all reiterate our collective commitment to the complete build-out of the Downsview Aerospace Campus as a centre for advanced manufacturing, innovative research and technological development.

A place where industry, academia and government institutions come together to position our stake in the future of aerospace development for the next 100 years.

Thank you