

## Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame – Rhys Eyton

For his outstanding contribution to Canada's aviation industry, Rhys Eyton was inducted as a Member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame at the 47th Induction Ceremony on June 23, 2022, at the Marriott Calgary Airport Hotel. Mr. Eyton was joined by five other inductees, who were also honoured at the Ceremony for their advancement of aviation in Canada.

In his letter nominating Rhys Eyton as a Member, Calin Rovinescu, former CEO of Air Canada, noted that "becoming a Member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame is one of the most significant tributes that can be bestowed on an individual in Canada's aviation community".

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame captured Rhys Eyton's 29-year career in a short video presented at the Ceremony as follows:

"A leader in Canada's commercial aviation sector, Rhys Eyton joined the Finance Department of Pacific Western Airlines in 1967. Over the next decade he assumed positions of increasing responsibility until, in March 1976, he was appointed President and CEO of the airline. In addition to streamlining the company, Rhys Eyton began to acquire regional carriers and then, in 1987, Canadian Pacific Air Lines. The new company, Canadian Airlines, expanded again following the acquisition of Wardair. In 1989 Rhys was appointed Chairman, President and CEO of Canadian Airlines International and served in this capacity until retirement in 1995. During a transformative era in Canada's airline industry, which included deregulation, Rhys Eyton's vision led to the expansion of a truly competitive Canadian domestic, transborder and international carrier. His decency and leadership played a key part in his airline becoming one of the largest private sector employers in Western Canada peaking at approximately 25,000 employees in 1994. Between 1976 and 1994, revenues rose from approximately \$100 Million to \$3 Billion. Having shepherded his airline through regional mergers and building it into a truly national carrier, there is little question that Rhys Eyton reshaped the nature of the airline industry in Canada"

Widely recognized by his community and aviation peers, Rhys served, amongst many other positions, as Chairman and Director of the Conference Board of Canada, the Air Transport Association of Canada, and as President of the International Air Transport Association. He was awarded an Hon. Doctorate of Laws (LLD) by the University of Victoria in 1990.



Due to the onset of Alzheimer's, Rhys' wife, Lynn, and other family members proudly accepted the Recognition Plaque on his behalf and acknowledged that he had led a full and accomplished life.