

## 2025 National Aircraft Maintenance Conference – A Successful Gathering of Aviation Professionals

Cara Tweyman  
Precision Aero Components

The 2025 National Aircraft Maintenance Conference concluded last week, bringing together over 950 attendees, more than 65 exhibitors, world-class training sessions, and an exciting Skills Challenge featuring teams from across Canada.

Congratulations to Team Ornge Air Ambulance for taking first place, and to Air Canada Team 1 and KF Aerospace for their second and third place finishes. The event showcased the talent, professionalism, and dedication of the aviation maintenance community.

What makes this conference unique is that it is community-driven, not corporate. It provides a platform for AMEs, buyers, suppliers, operators, students, and partners to network, learn, share ideas, and celebrate the professionalism and skill that ensure aviation safety across the industry.

The conference is entirely run by volunteers, including presenters, Skills Challenge providers, and support staff. Their commitment ensures the event continues to provide value and fosters the next generation of aviation maintenance professionals.

We would like to extend sincere thanks to:

- Volunteers, who are the foundation of the event
- AMEs, who are the reason the conference exists
- Exhibitors, sponsors, and participating companies, whose support makes this event possible

The 2025 conference brought together aviation professionals from across Canada, and we look forward to connecting with everyone again next year. If you have photos from the conference, please share them with us to help celebrate the highlights of this year's event.

### Events in Aviation Calendar

- **Aviation & Aerospace Workforce Development Program:** Free online courses

January-March: <https://www.amesdfproject.ca>

- **Western AME's Conference & MRO Canada 2026**

- **Date:** March 3-5, 2026
- **Location:** The Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary, AB
- **Organization:** Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Canada (AMEC) partner

## Thank you to our conference sponsors.

Without you, the conference would not be possible.

*Photo Credit Graeme Burnett*

*(Thanks also to sponsors The Fieldstone Barn, VHR, and Rapco Fleet Support: Photos unavailable at publication)*





















## Skills Challenge at the 2025 AME Conference

Shawn Warboys



This was the 9th year that we have hosted the Skills Challenge. It was by far the largest skills challenge to date. This year we had 22 teams from across Canada, from all areas of aircraft maintenance compete, we even had two military teams 431 and 435 Squadron. It was great to have representation from Transport Canada as they also had two teams entered.

It was a full day where teams competed in 12 different challenges from all corners of aircraft maintenance. The scores were quite close, however at the end we had KF Aero finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Air Canada Team 1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Ornge took home the first place trophy. We also had two awards for the top competing male and female students. Pei Chieh Hsieh and Aidan Gower were both presented an endorsement course of their choosing provided by Phil Durdy from Flightline Training Services.

A huge thank you to all of the people that supported this event from the students and participants that competed in the challenges. The hosts of the actual skill, ACT(Advanced Composites Training), Aerotec Engines, Bell helicopters, Mid Canada Mod, PPG, VMO Aero, and Air Canada for their help with the remaining challenges. We would like to thank Snap On for providing a lot of the tooling at some of the challenges. We would also like to thank Chartright, Hartzell Aviation and Skyservice for their valuable sponsorship which allows this event to take place.

We are already looking forward to the 2026 version of this skills challenge, where hopefully we can get even more teams and students to come together to share in this fun and rewarding experience.

## Understanding Insurance

Insurance is simple. It's a promise to pay. In exchange for a premium, an insurance company promises to pay for damages sustained to your property or vehicle under certain conditions. Damage must be caused by a sudden or accidental event, usually subject to a deductible (the amount you must pay towards repair of the damage).

Insurance is

.... one product we all purchase that we never want to use but is a large part of our monthly household budget.

...a pool. Premiums go into the pool. Claim payments come out of the pool. When more claims are being paid than premiums received, rates go up

.... based on the level of exposure. A newly licensed driver will pay more than a driver who is licensed for many years. A new homeowner will pay more than a homeowner who has had insurance for many years without claims.

...a transfer of risk. You transfer the risk of losing your home to an insurance company in exchange for a premium.

...a global perspective. Claims occurring in another part of the country will affect local premiums.

... necessity that affects and supports every industry and community.

Imagine for a moment a world without insurance. Banks would not and could not loan funds to purchase cars or homes let alone support small and large businesses so they can grow and expand.

Communities devastated by severe weather could not be rebuilt. Research and development of programs to reduce losses would not occur. Safety standards would not be implemented. Consequently, we all need insurance for one reason or another but how do we manage the cost to our monthly household budget?

Shop around! Rates and underwriting guidelines are every changing. What an insurance company offers today may change tomorrow. That being said, it is always best to shop the market within 30 days of your renewal date. Cancelling a policy in the middle of the policy term will incur a cancellation fee.

Check the rating page of your policy to ensure you're rated properly and receiving all available discounts:

- Combine your property insurance with your automobile.
- Putting all vehicles in the household with the same insurer can save with multi vehicle discounts
- Take advantage of Group Discounts!

Sound Insurance has been a AME Association since 2016.

We're pleased to offer a Group Property and Automobile Program to members of the AME Association, their children and spouses. Request a quote before December 31, 2025 to be entered in a \$100 VISA Card Draw!

Debbie Arnold, R.I.B. (ON) C.A.I.B.  
Business Development Manager, Personal Lines

### SOUND INSURANCE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR AME ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO MEMBERS

- ✿ Aviation Liability & Property Insurance for AME Contractors
- ✿ Home & Auto Insurance at Group Rates
- ✿ Health & Dental Insurance Program
- ✿ Private Aircraft and Hangar Insurance

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## Membership Rate Changes take effect April 1, 2026

At the AMEAO Annual General Meeting of Tuesday September 22, 2025, the Membership Rates as below were approved by the majority of the Membership that attended the AGM.

The following Membership Rates will take effect as of April 1, 2026.

- 1) Student: \$50.00 for two years
- 2) Apprentice/Retiree: \$50.00 per year
- 3) Fully Licensed AME/Associate: \$100.00 per year
- 4) Corporate: \$350.00 per year

## Good News!

### Health And Safety Manager at AAR is spreading the news about the Dirty Dozen, plus three: The Filthy Fifteen

Michelle Ruest, Health and Safety Manager at AAR and owner of Go4Safety is doing great work bringing new ideas about Human Factor mitigation to health and safety leaders across the country. This fall she shared ideas for improving safety at the HSPC 2025 conference in St. John's Newfoundland and can be heard in Alberta this spring at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Alberta Health and Safety Conference. Her ideas have significantly moved the needle on safety at the Windsor AAR hangar.

Talking about safety culture is an important step toward a safer environment for all.

### Share your News!

Is Good News happening in your organization? Contact [k.lesperance@cogwheesoftware.com](mailto:k.lesperance@cogwheesoftware.com) to share it! Submissions will be published at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for brevity and format. We regret that due to space requirements, all submissions may not be published.

## Member Benefit Corner

All AMEAO members benefit from a 10% discount at Work Authority, which for one member, comes in handy at this time of year:

"Why am I Christmas shopping for the entire family exclusively at Work Authority using my sweet, sweet 10% employee discount? Are you kidding me? Because I'm a genius, that's why!"

This isn't just about saving money; it's about optimizing holiday efficiency by only having to stop at one store.

I'm leveraging my membership benefits to ensure maximum durability and safety under the Christmas tree:

For Mom: That lovely hi-vis pink safety vest. She can wear it while yelling at dad when he burns the turkey. You can't miss her, day or night!

For Dad: A brand new pair of steel-toed work boots. Perfect for his 'honey-do' list which primarily involves kicking cans around the garage. They'll last him 'til retirement!

For my sister, the yoga enthusiast: I got her a bulk pack of absorbent work socks. For superior sweat-wicking during 'downward dog' or just, you know, existing.

For my brother-in-law: A full-face respirator. Not for work, mind you, just for dealing with the general aroma of my cooking and maybe his own life choices.

For the kids: A hard hat and some miniature safety cones! Safety first, always. Plus, the hat's great for construction-themed playtime, or just protecting them from falling expectations!

See? It's practical, it's durable, it's fiscally responsible, and most importantly, it all comes with a sweet 10% off the top! The AME Association of Ontario is saving Christmas, one pair of work pants at a time! (The pants are for me!)



You can sign up for your membership at: <https://ame-ont.com/individual-memberships/>



## Aviation & Aerospace Workforce Development Program



This winter, the AME Association of Ontario continues to bring you exclusive training through the **Aviation and Aerospace Workforce Development (AAWD) Program**. Whether you're looking to refresh your expertise or expand into new areas, these skill development opportunities are funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario for adults seeking professional development.

Courses are led by companies such as Advanced Composites Training, Cogwheel Soft Solutions, Technical Training Group, Workright, Indigenous Skills, Employment, Apprenticeship and Development (ISEAD) and more.

For more information, contact Marlene Conway Diels at [marlene.sdf@ame-ont.com](mailto:marlene.sdf@ame-ont.com), Leigh Kras [leigh.sdf@ame-ont.com](mailto:leigh.sdf@ame-ont.com) or Drea Reid-Sneath at [drea.ame.sdf@gmail.com](mailto:drea.ame.sdf@gmail.com)

**REGISTRATION for January to March IS OPEN**

<https://www.amesdfproject.ca/course-registration>

### Course Offerings:

- *Courses available Jan-Mar:*
- *Indigenous Cultural Competence Program*
- *Communicating for Accountability*
- *People don't come with Maintenance Manuals*
- *Leading without Strings*
- *Communicating for Advancement*
- *Arrive and Thrive*
- *Dealing with Difficult People*
- *3 Keys to Successful Communication*

## The Ottawa Ingenium Altitude Pathways Fair & Student Showcase 2025

The Ottawa Ingenium Altitude Pathways Fair at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum was a great success. AME Association of Ontario and AME Association of Quebec volunteers joined AMEC/TEAC in Ottawa to meet hundreds of passionate students, educators, families, and Air Cadets, and introduced them to our profession. Surrounded by historic aircraft, they shared their expertise and showcased the essential work of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers. During the event, they distributed some very cool AMEC-TEAC branded materials, such as flyers and stickers, in addition to displaying banners containing the AMEC-TEAC logo.

### Our booth at the event



Louis Anderson, President of AME Association of Ontario shows potential AME how it's done.





## Encouraging and Inspiring the Next Generation of AMEs

On December 4, four volunteer members of the AME Association headed to Bramalea Secondary School to tell co-op students about great career possibilities in aviation maintenance. Shawn Quinn of VMO Aerospace, John Schiebel of Jandl Offerings, Katherine Lesperance of Cogwheel Soft Solutions and Cynthia Omesili trialed a Human Factors and Day in the Life of an AME presentation directed at youth. Jandl Offerings made a generous donation to the school to enable transportation of students to co-op placements in the aviation maintenance industry followed by pizza for all. Thanks to Holly Maclean Co-operative education teacher at Bramalea SS for organizing and planning the event.

