



Ways in Which the Government of Canada Can Help Canada's Small and Medium- Sized Firms to Pursue International Trade Opportunities

**Submitted to the House of Commons
Standing Committee on International Trade
by Edmonton International Airport (EIA)**

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EIA Background

Edmonton International Airport (EIA) is a self-funded, not-for-profit corporation with a mandate to drive economic prosperity for the Edmonton Metro Region. EIA is Canada's fifth-busiest airport by passenger traffic and the largest major Canadian airport by land area. EIA is a major economic driver, with an economic output of over \$3.2 billion, supporting over 26,000 jobs. In 2018, 2,000 direct jobs have been added to EIA's "Airport City" with new developments such as the Premium Outlet Collection-EIA and Costco.

In the last five years, EIA has attracted over \$750 million in private investment. EIA's Airport City propels new jobs, tourism and economic diversification – and creates a destination in and around EIA, featuring entertainment, e-commerce, retail, hospitality, cargo/logistics, bio-pharma, light manufacturing and many other industries.

EIA Recommendations to Support SME Entry into International Markets

- Support SME engagement in trade activities
 - Direct funding to SMEs to cover market entry costs
 - Continue educational seminars to develop SME capacity
- Ensure tourism growth
 - Review funding models
 - Increase international student enrolment in Canada
- Improve visa processing systems to support business discussions
- Increase air access
 - Expand slot availability for passenger and cargo flights
- Ensure infrastructure at and near airports supports the efficient movement of people and goods
 - CATSA systems funding and technology
 - Road transportation