

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry Mulkins  
VP Client Outreach and Development  
502.574.1599 | sherry.mulkins@wtcky.org

**Kentucky Lt. Governor Hampton Joins World Trade Center Kentucky Aerospace Mission to Canada**

**Lexington, Ky.** – (April 23, 2018) World Trade Center Kentucky (WTC-KY) recently returned from an aerospace-focused trade mission to Canada joined by Lieutenant Governor Jenean Hampton.

The aerospace industry-based Canada 2018 Trade and Business Mission, presented by LBX Company, LLC, organized by WTC-KY and partnered with Kentucky Aerospace Industry Consortium (KAIC) took place April 15-20 in Montreal and Quebec City.

Kentucky businesses who attended the Mission include: Highlands Diversified Services; KAIC; LBX Company, LLC; Morehead Rowan County Economic Development Council; Morehead State University; Sealing Life, Inc. and Skilcraft LLC. The U.S. Commercial Service and the U.S. Consulate in Montreal joined these regional businesses.

“Our delegation took place in AeroMontreal and conducted one on one business meetings with companies such as Pratt & Whitney Canada, Bombardier Inc. along with many others. We also had the privilege to attend the CORIM luncheon that featured our very own Kentucky native, U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Kelly Craft as the keynote. AeroMontreal; CRIAQ, RDV Forum; The Quebec Government; Quebec Chamber of Commerce welcomed Kentucky with VIP Status. The U.S. Consul General in Montreal, Robert Thomas and U. S. Consul General in Quebec City, Allison Areais-Vogel, also hosted us. We are very excited with the increased business that will be conducted between Kentucky and our neighbor and friend to the north, Canada. We extend a warm thank you and appreciation for the welcoming we received from Canada,” stated Sherry Mulkins.

“One of the premier highlights of the trip was having the opportunity to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between KAIC and AeroMontreal. Through this partnership we will help create additional growth and trade between Kentucky and Canada and ensure that our aerospace industry continues its upward climb. In addition to the MOU we made contact and networked with a multitude of companies and individuals from not only Canada, but from Germany, Portugal, and the UK. It is becoming very clear across the US and across the world that Kentucky is serious about our aerospace industry and making it our key economic driver,” noted Stewart Ditto the Executive Director for KAIC.

Canada, the world’s 10th largest economy and member of NAFTA, is the number one destination for Kentucky exports and the fifth largest foreign market for Kentucky aerospace exports. Kentucky’s aerospace exports have risen 183 percent over the past five years and account for approximately 17,000 Commonwealth jobs.

“Many people are surprised to learn that the aerospace industry plays such a critical role in the state’s economy,” said Lt. Gov. Hampton. “The sky really is the limit in terms of the economic impact this industry can have on the Commonwealth. Our partnership with Canada is critical to fostering positive momentum within the aerospace industry.”

Kentucky’s aerospace exports exceeded \$11.7 billion in 2017. The rapid increase over the past five years proves the potential for the continued growth of this industry and illustrates the importance of the industry as an economic driver.

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**About World Trade Center Kentucky:**

*The World Trade Center-Kentucky (WTC-KY) serves as a catalyst for trade and economic development through innovation, education, trade advisory services and international business missions. For more information, contact the World Trade Center Kentucky at 502-574-2400, or visit our website at [www.wtcky.org](http://www.wtcky.org).*

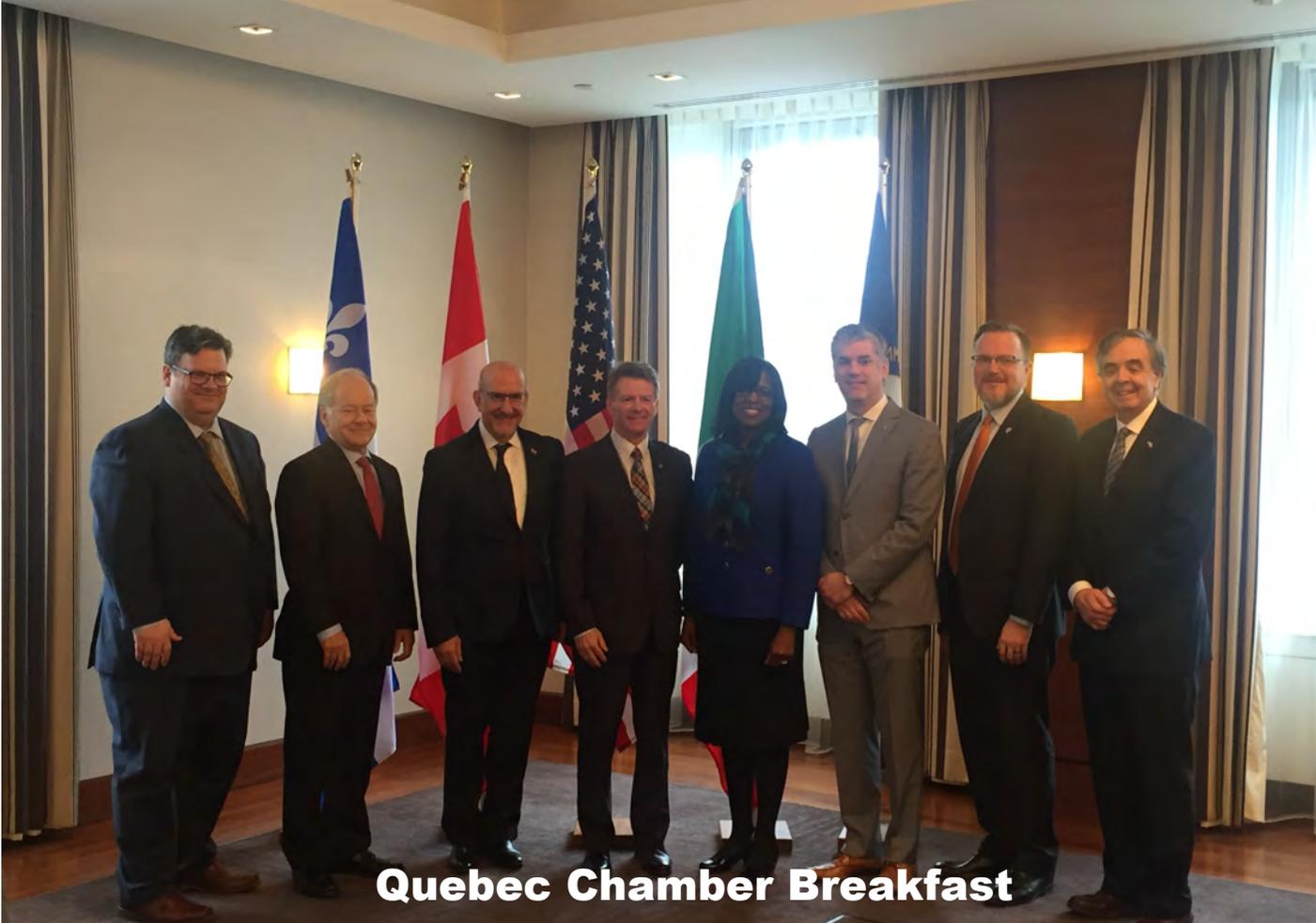
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**Lt. Governor meeting Pratt & Whitney Canada**



**MOU Signing**



**Quebec Chamber Breakfast**

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**VIP Reception at CORIM with Ambassador Kelly Craft**