

# HOWARD ENG REFLECTS ON HIS PATH TO GTAA PRESIDENT

## ENG BECAME GTAA PRESIDENT AND CEO IN MARCH 2012

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Howard Eng was 12 years old when his family arrived in Edson, Alberta from Hong Kong. Today, Eng is the president and CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

It's the story of a lifetime to track Eng's journey from his arrival in Alberta to where he is today - leading the country's busiest airport, following a 38-year-long career in the industry. The News met with Eng at a media event at Toronto Pearson International Airport promoting Mississauga's business sector and its reliance on the airport.

"All that joy the airport brings people because it connects them to the world, their families, and their

friends, that's what's kept me in this business for 38 years," Eng said.

After graduating from the University of Alberta with two degrees - science and commerce - Eng found work with Transport Canada, which then managed the country's airports, in Edmonton. In 1993, the airport was privatized and Eng and his colleagues were moved into the private sector of airport operations.

Two years later, in 1995, Eng was approached by a colleague who offered him a job at Hong Kong's new international airport. After consulting with his wife and two daughters, the family decided to move to Hong Kong for his new career opportunity thinking they would be back after four years, once the airport construction was completed.

"Four years became 17," Eng said. "I was there to see the transformation of China from a small country to a



Bryon Johnson/Metroland

Howard Eng, president and CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) at Pearson International Airport's Terminal 1 on Dec. 11, 2018.

great economic power."

Eventually, Eng was in charge of all airport operations at the new airport,

and it was consistently ranked as one of the world's best.

Following that tenure in

Hong Kong, Eng came across an opportunity from the GTAA to bring his expertise and experience to Toronto Pearson. In March 2012, Eng became president and CEO of the GTAA.

Last year, Toronto Pearson was voted one of the best airports in North America for airports with more than 40 million passengers per year. It provides direct flights to almost 170 destinations, and in 2017 was ranked the fifth most-connected mega hub airport in the world.

The airport currently serves 50 million passengers per year, anticipated to jump to 85 million in 20 years. In addition to passengers, the airport also transports 530,000 metric tons of air freight with more expected in the future.

In the face of rising demands, Eng says there's still a lot of work to do.

"When people come to an airport, their purpose is

not to come to the airport - it's to go somewhere else," Eng said. "What we as a team are trying to do over the next five years is figure out how to provide consistent, reliable flow from home all the way to your destination and back home again."

Eng added that the airport employs 13,000 Mississauga residents and praised the recently unveiled MiWay Airport Express route.

Peel Bios

ENG, Howard

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