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Air Canada Wins for Best Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy at Canadian HR Awards

MONTREAL, Sept. 20, 2022 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada was recently recognized at the annual Canadian HR Awards with the Payworks Award for Best Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy. This honour recognizes an organization for successfully establishing corporate social responsibility in its culture through its people and the role HR had in the strategy and execution of such initiatives.

"We are thrilled with this recognition as we see the integration of sustainability, environmental and social elements throughout our organization as equally important to economic factors in contributing to our airline's success. We have cultivated our corporate culture to consider sustainability and social good aspects in our strategic decision making, and this in turn has resulted in a wide range of opportunities to cultivate employee engagement in important causes that make a difference," said Arielle Meloul-Wechsler, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer and Public Affairs.



Sustainability initiatives embedded across Air Canada's organizational culture and people include:

- The Air Canada Foundation, which raised more than \$1 million and dispersed close to \$600,000 to support close to 160 charities, and its Hospital Transportation Program and other partnerships to advance children's health and well-being,
- Humanitarian work to support Ukraine, including employees volunteering their time to pack emergency family food and response kits, special flights transporting humanitarian and medical aid on behalf of global aid organizations, and the facilitation of flights for people to travel to Canada,
- A Climate Action Plan with strategies and absolute mid-term goals to achieve a long-term objective of net-zero emissions from all global operations by 2050,
- Air Canada Vaccination Hubs set up in 2021 to support the Canadian vaccination effort with temporary employment opportunities for furloughed employees in non-medical staffing positions at provincial vaccination clinics in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.
- Employee engagement opportunities to give back to their own communities through the causes they are involved in,
- Ongoing advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives including rollout of DEI educational training across the organization, and commitment to creating a DEI Executive Council and DEI Steering Committee,
- Several textile re-use, recycling and donation programs, including development of an app to enable employees to exchange new and gently used uniform pieces, to promote sustainable alternatives to landfill disposal,
- The Fill it Forward initiative to encourage employees to stay hydrated while supporting the environment and contribute to Water First, a Canadian charity that addresses water challenges in First Nations communities through education, training and meaningful collaboration.

Additional information about Air Canada's people, employee and community engagement, safety, wellness, the environment, and other initiatives are detailed in the airline's 2021 Corporate Sustainability Report, [Citizens of the World](#).

The annual Canadian HR Awards are recognized as the leading independent awards program in the human resource profession. The awards showcase the nation's most outstanding HR teams, leaders and employers for their achievements, best practices and leadership in the HR profession over the past 12 months. The Canadian HR Awards is presented by HRD Canada and Canadian HR Reporter.

Earlier this year, Air Canada was honoured with additional recognitions for its human resource programs and achievements, including being named by Forbes as one of Canada's "Best Employers for Diversity", and as one of "Canada's Best Employers 2022". The airline was also recognized by Mediacorp for the ninth consecutive year as one of "Montreal's Top Employers" for 2022.

About Air Canada

Air Canada is Canada's largest airline, the country's flag carrier and a founding member of Star Alliance, the world's most

comprehensive air transportation network celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2022. Air Canada provides scheduled passenger service directly to 51 airports in Canada, 51 in the United States and 86 internationally. It is the only international network carrier in North America to receive a Four-Star ranking from Skytrax, which in 2021 gave Air Canada awards for the Best Airline Staff in North America, Best Airline Staff in Canada, Best Business Class Lounge in North America, and an excellence award for managing COVID-19. Through its leading travel loyalty Aeroplan program, Air Canada offers the ability to earn or redeem points on the world's largest airline partner network of 45 airlines, plus through an extensive range of merchandise, hotel and car rental rewards. Its freight division, Air Canada Cargo, provides air freight lift and connectivity to hundreds of destinations across six continents using Air Canada's passenger flights and cargo-only flights with its fleet of Boeing 767-300 freighters. Air Canada has committed to a net zero emissions goal from all global operations by 2050.

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