

Joseph (Joe) Randell of Chorus Aviation Inc. named EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2017 Atlantic

Annual awards gala celebrates daring local entrepreneurs

MONCTON, NB, Oct. 6, 2017 /CNW/ - Joe Randell, CEO of Chorus Aviation Inc., an organization that offers a full suite of aviation services, is this year's EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017 Atlantic winner.

"Joe has played a vital role shaping the landscape of the Canadian airline industry," says Gina Kinsman, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Atlantic program Director. "He's navigated some turbulent times, but his strong management and entrepreneurial mindset has, and will continue, to guide him to success."

Joe's passion for the airline industry developed when he completed a research study for the startup of a new airline as part of his MBA. This project laid the groundwork for the creation of Air Nova – one of the first classic regional carriers in Canada – serving five destinations in Atlantic Canada with two aircraft.

The airline was bought by Air Canada in 1991, but through the acquisition Joe continued to grow the airline to 22 aircraft serving 19 destinations. Looking to expand further, Joe consolidated Air Nova and Air Alliance, and was subsequently tasked with the consolidation of the other major regional operators in Canada. The newly merged company launched its new brand, Jazz, in 2002.

By the end of 2005, Joe had grown Jazz to be a relevant, revitalized North American regional airline, making it Canada's second-largest airline by fleet and strong financial results. These years, however, were accompanied by many challenges. Escalating costs and pressures resulting from terrorist attacks, government-imposed charges, increasing competition and the 2008 financial crisis were all roadblocks in Jazz's development. Nevertheless, Joe's vision of a diversified company remained unwavering.

Today, his company is Chorus Aviation – a corporation that owns Jazz Aviation, Voyageur Aviation and Chorus Aviation Capital. Together, they provide a suite of regional aviation services to customers around the world. These include: contracted flying operations, maintenance, repair and overhaul expertise, aircraft partings provisioning, airport operations, and aircraft leasing solutions.

Joe's admirable leadership extends beyond the workplace. He's a strong believer in fostering young entrepreneurial spirit and is a long-time supporter of Junior Achievement Nova Scotia. Joe is also actively involved with Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering, partnering students with Jazz Aviation for research and development projects. Joe has also been involved with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada since 2004, and is currently a Director of the MS Scientific Research Foundation.

"Joe has seen it all – from startup, growth and restructuring to mergers, acquisitions and rebranding," says Kinsman. "He soars through with vision and passion to overcome complex challenges and capitalize on opportunities. Joe is the definition of a risk-taker, and we couldn't be happier to recognize him with this award."

Source: Cision/EY <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/joseph-joe-randell-of-chorus-aviation-inc-named-ey-entrepreneur-of-the-year-2017-atlantic-649740043.html>