

COVID-19: Survival and Revival

Call-in Forum for Airport Concessions Industry – No. 62

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Phone Number 408-418-9388; Access Code 791-700-478#

About this Session: This week we'll cross the border to hear from Canadian airport and industry leader Sam Samaddar about the current situation with the pandemic and how it is impacting Canadian airports and concessionaires. How has the Canadian government responded and is there relief in sight for airports and concessionaires? How are concessionaires adapting and reopening, and what challenges are they facing? We'll also explore how the airport-concessions business relationship is changing, and the outlook for U.S.-Canada air travel.



Sam B. Samaddar

Airport Director

Kelowna International Airport

Sam was born in Bristol, England and spent his early youth in Kenya, East Africa. His interest in aviation developed early and from 1973 to 1980, Sam was involved with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets where he achieved his private pilot's license at the age of 17.

In 1984 Sam graduated from Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario with honors and went to work with the Department of External Affairs. His duties involved planning, organizing and coordinating Canada's major Summits including, Expo 86, Commonwealth Heads of Government and the Economic G-7 Summits.

In 1988 Sam commenced his airport career at Vancouver International Airport where he held several positions including Airport Duty Manager and Superintendent of Ground Transportation. In 1992 he assumed the position of Superintendent Airport Operations at Kelowna International Airport and has held numerous positions, including Assistant General Manager jobs for both Airport Operations and Airport Development while achieving his International Accredited Airport Executive designation in 1997.

In July 2008 Sam was appointed the Airport Director for the Kelowna International Airport – one of the top ten airports in Canada serving just over 2 million passengers in 2019. As Airport Director Sam currently is a board member of Tourism Kelowna and the International Association of Airport Executives. He is also on the Executive of Airports Council International North America as Vice Chair and is the past Chair of the Canadian Airports Council.