

Committee: City Council Nomination to the Greater London International Airport Authority

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Thomas Charles Ray Lawson**

Address:

**1259 Sandy Somerville Drive
London, ON
N6K 5R2**

Occupation: **Semi-retired**

Work experience: **My 47 year career encompasses leadership roles in the government, not-for-profit, and commercial sectors, including more than 20 years in aviation. Key accomplishments are as follows: Aviation •Licensed pilot for over 40 years •Founded Empire Aviation, in conjunction with the University of Western Ontario, as a provider of Canada's first integrated aviation degree program. Achieved ISO 9001 certification •Initiated the Grand Bend International Air Show •Served as first Chairman of the Honorary Snowbirds 431st squadron Community •Served as Chairman, St. John Ambulance, London •Served as Executive Director, London Chamber of Commerce •Served as Mayor of Grand Bend •Served as Councilor, Lambton County •Served as Governor, Commissionaires Great Lakes Division •Served as President of the Rotary Club of London and Governor's representative to initiate Rotary Club of Grand Bend Military •Commissioned Canadian Army COTC •Served 22nd London Service Battalion: 10 Years Honorary Colonel; 5 Years Reserves; Chairman, Senate •Co-founded the Garrison Community Council Wolsey Barracks, London Aboriginal Affairs •Serving as Lead Director, First Nations Financial Management Board, Governor in Council appointee •Served as Director, Aboriginal Economic Development Board Boating •Founded Grand Bend Cruising Club •Served the Great Lakes Cruising Club variously as Rear Commodore, Port Captain, Director and Secretary**

Education: **•Honorary Snowbird •Order of the Officer of St. John, St. John Ambulance •Canadian Forces Decoration •Commissionaire Long Service Medal •University of New Brunswick •University of Western Ontario**

Skills: **As the founder and developer of Canada's first integrated aviation degree program, I worked side-by-side with the London International Airport Authority. The experience attuned me to all aspects of airport operations. Having achieved ISO 9001 certification for the aviation program, I understand the absolute necessity for airports to achieve operational excellence and to foster a culture of continuous improvement. As initiator of the Grand Bend International Air Show and Chairman of the Honorary Snowbirds 431 Squadron, I orchestrated complex aviation events in conjunction with airport authorities. My success in these endeavors was achieved through a careful process of identifying airport requirements and systematically aligning aviation activities accordingly. Moreover, I spent the bulk of my career delivering results in highly regulated environments. From my time as Mayor of Grand Bend to my current role as Lead Director, First Nations Financial Management Board, I have been resolute and steadfast in maintaining the public's trust. Together, my airport operations understanding, track record of operational excellence, deep experience in delivering results in a highly regulated environment, and history of public service make me uniquely qualified to assist the London International Airport Authority in achieving its objectives.**

Interest reason: **My passions for aviation and public service form the connective thread of my professional experience. As a London native I have experienced the many changes that continue to transform our city into one of Canada's leading metropolitan centers. Having had the privilege to serve in roles including Director of the London Chamber of Commerce and President of the London Rotary Club, I am proud of my contributions in support of London's success. London continues to exhibit tremendous potential, which means continued growth, and this cannot occur without world class Airport facilities, services and operations. For me, reinforcing the London International Airport Authority is the logical next step in a lifetime of commitment to aviation and my community.**

Contributions: **To maintain and develop Southwestern Ontario's 'Airport of Choice,' multiple stakeholder objectives will need to be addressed in parallel. For over 40 years, surfacing objectives, probing for opportunities, and aligning views around pragmatic**

solutions has been my occupation- much of this has been in London and aviation. My experience as a pilot, in achieving an aviation program ISO 9001 certification, and in orchestrating air shows exemplifies the focus that I will bring to all facets of London International Airport Authority operations; and to evaluate enhancements under the lens of safety, service and convenience.

Past contributions: As Chairman of the St. Clair Parkway Commission, I was tasked with aligning the objectives of four municipalities, multiple levels of government and associated funding agencies, to create an operating model that delivered an ideal experience for tourists to Lambton County. Navigating the high level of complexity and public, private, and individuals' interests is analogous to the position that I will occupy on behalf of the London International Aviation Authority.

Interpersonal: Building my career at the intersection of Government, Industry, public and not-for-profit organizations sensitized me to the respect that must be paid to the views of all internal and external stakeholders. It is not always possible for everyone's unvarnished objectives to be embedded in a final solution. Notwithstanding, it is the leader's role to foster the free exchange of ideas in a non judgmental environment. If the London International Aviation Authority is like the places that I have been, many of the best ideas are likely to surface from colleagues and conscientious personnel and I will consider it my role to ensure that they are motivated to do so. As Mayor of Grand Bend I was tasked with refocusing Town Council's mission to building a "Family destination." Mobilizing the Council members and the community was essential to achieving the objectives and we did this through a coordinated outreach and communications program, including a robust feedback loop that enabled a steady refinement of the overall approach, policies and targeted interventions. In my present role as Lead Director, First Nations Financial Management Board, we are making great strides in improving the economic sustenance of aboriginal communities. Success is predicated upon the active engagement of civil servants, aboriginal leaders and their constituencies. To achieve this I am committed to a coordinated routine of active personal outreach, listening, disseminating facts and aligning stakeholders around complimentary points of view.

Interview interest: **Yes**