



# Arrows to the Moon

Avro's Engineers and the Space Race



Chris Gainor



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On February 20, 1959, the Canadian government shut down the CF-105 Avro Arrow jet interceptor program, putting the cream of Canada's aerospace engineering talent out of work. Many of the Avro engineers had just arrived in Canada from Great Britain.

A brand new organization called the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was charged with putting U.S. astronauts into space, and in 1959 it desperately needed engineering talent. Within 10 weeks of the demise of the Arrow, 25 Avro engineers were working for NASA, and another seven joined them later. Other Avro engineers found work with the aerospace contractors that built spacecraft and boosters for NASA.

A little more than 10 years later, U.S. astronauts were standing on the surface of the Moon in the climax of one of the greatest stories of technology and exploration in human history.

*Arrows to the Moon* tells for the first time the story of the Canadian and British engineers from Avro Canada who played key roles in putting Americans on the Moon and in building today's U.S. space program, including the space shuttle and the International Space Station. Also included are other Canadian contributions to Apollo and a chapter on the Canadian space program.

*Arrows to the Moon* is the final chapter in one of the most compelling stories in Canada's history. How the demise of Canada's national dream contributed to one of the greatest triumphs in American history.

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