



February 22, 2021

Mr. Vance Badawey, M.P.
Chair, Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN)
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Badawey and Members of the TRAN:

As the Standing Committee completes its study on the impact of COVID-19 on the aviation sector, the undersigned aviation organizations would like to thank you and the Committee for your work over the past several months. As you heard from numerous witnesses since your study began, the pandemic and the economic chaos it has created has had a severe and debilitating impact on the sector, our employees, and the communities we serve.

Each of our organizations appeared before the Committee during the course of your study. We would like to take this opportunity to collectively propose that the following recommendations be included in the Committee's report to Parliament:

1. That the federal government acknowledges the importance of the aviation and aerospace sector to Canada's eventual economic recovery, and future international competitiveness;
2. That the federal government work with the industry to establish an aviation re-start strategy, to be in place by April 30th, that reflects science-based and data-based decision making with respect to testing and quarantine measures, and which will enable a phased re-opening of international air travel and provide a clear path forward for the re-opening of domestic travel;
3. That the federal government adopt and implement a sectoral support program for air carriers, airports, and aerospace firms that is commensurate with the impact of the crisis and in line with programs adopted in other competitive jurisdictions, as recommended by the Report of the Industry Strategy Council released on December 11, 2020.
4. That the federal government temporarily suspend the full reliance on user-pay for service providers such as NAV CANADA and the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), and financially



support these organizations through the pandemic to preserve Canada’s strategic transportation infrastructure. The industry will be operating for several years with significantly reduced passenger numbers, calling into the question the degree to which the user-pay model can adequately fund and maintain infrastructure and services.

A robust aviation and aerospace sector is critical to Canada’s economy, and the hundreds of thousands of jobs in every region of the country that aviation and aerospace support directly and indirectly. We believe the above recommendations are critical to ensuring the sector’s eventual recovery. Thank you for considering our views.

Yours truly,

Mike McNaney
President and CEO
National Airlines Council of Canada

Daniel-Robert Gooch
President
Canadian Airports Council

John McKenna
President and CEO
Air Transport Association of Canada

Michael Mueller
Interim President and CEO
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Monette Pasher
Executive Director
Atlantic Canada Airports Association

- CC: The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport
- The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P., Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
- The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
- The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
- The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P., President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs