

## **Travel Restart Plan: Canada's Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel offers a sound way forward**

Ottawa, ON, June 10, 2021. The Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA) is urging the government of Canada to quickly adopt the May 27 recommendations of the Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel, to ensure an equitable and safe reopening of Canada's borders.

"The panel's recommendations go a long way to establish a sensible, fair and safe way forward," said CBAA president and CEO, Anthony Norejko. "In particular, the business aviation community is calling on the government to take action in three specific but linked areas."

The first action would be to adopt the expert panel's recommendation to remove the three-day hotel quarantine at government-approved accommodations for all international travellers who have met the Expert Panels "Border Measures for Persons entering Canada. "The government has announced it is removing the quarantine requirement only for returning Canadians and permanent residents. As welcome a step as this is, it is only a start. The government should act quickly on the panel's recommendation to remove restrictions for all international travellers who meet Canada's vaccination standards."

Secondly, the CBAA is asking government to take its future guidance on restart from the panel's recommendation that "as much as possible, land and air border measures must be simple, easy to understand, equitable and consider both benefits and harms."

"We need more consistency between land and border testing measures," Mr. Norejko explained. "Fundamentally, testing for inbound travellers should recognize that using a Canadian accredited laboratory or an approved Health Canada test is what needs to happen. As it's already recommended for the land border, it should be the same for an air conveyance and that a PCR test can occur off-site using a take home sampling kit by business aviation travellers as well."

Third, with the acceptance of Health Canada-approved off-site testing kits, international business aviation flights should be allowed to land at all Canadian airports that have a CBSA presence.

"Currently, international business aviation flights can only land at four airports – or only five percent of the total 79 Canadian airports that have a CBSA presence," said Mr. Norejko. "Off-site testing offers us a safe and equitable way to restore air travel while meeting the guidance of the recommendations of the government's expert panel."

However, Mr. Norejko believes that the biggest challenge may be achieving a high level of collaboration between federal, provincial and territorial governments. "We must balance the aviation and health regulatory responsibilities of the federal, provincial and territorial governments," he said, "As we contemplate a safe return for travel, we require consistent framework for international air travel, as described by the expert panel, and for domestic travel as well."