

March 27, 2020

Prime Minister of Canada  
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the 23,000 people employed across Canada by the \$12.1 billion business aviation section, I would like to open a dialogue to discuss ways that the Government of Canada can support our operators who have stepped up their efforts to provide safe alternative flight options for Canadians at a time when the number of available scheduled flights have shrunk to a fraction of their normal frequencies.

Prime Minister, we are extremely grateful for the government's leadership in this time of crisis.

Thanks to your actions, we retain a sense of optimism and look forward to the time when the pandemic has passed, and we can rebuild. Looking to the near future, we have identified a number of concrete actions that the government can take to support business aviation operators, FBOs and manufacturers and boost the recovery. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these in more detail with you and your officials.

With the health and safety of their clients, passengers, crew and staff as their priority, business aviation operators have risen to this unprecedented challenge while maintaining the security and safety of all their flights. We are extraordinarily proud of their actions, but we are not surprised. We see their high level of dedication and professionalism every day.

Business aviation is currently flying three key missions. First, it continues to provide essential travel in support of commerce and trade that benefits the Canadian economy, especially at a time when carriers are severely reducing or shutting down operations. Second, it is bringing Canadians home in a safe and clean environment, whether by operating humanitarian charters, or repatriating Canadians using business aircraft. Third, it provides transport, emergency services and essential supplies to Northern, remote and Indigenous communities.

However, without both near and medium to long-term relief, our operators, FBO partners and manufacturer/suppliers may not survive, resulting in job losses and significant disruptions to the critical services that they provide.

We therefore request that the government takes the following immediate actions:

- That the government rejects the idea of imposing an additional tax (i.e. the proposed 10 percent "luxury tax") on any type of aircraft, as business aircraft are a critical transportation asset that supports Canadian essential travel.
- A suspension of airport headlease rent payments, conditional upon such reductions being passed directly to on-field operators across the nation.
- A payroll credit equivalent to half of pilot and cabin crew training expenses for newly registered Canadian aircraft, to spur new aircraft acquisitions once the pandemic has passed.

- A temporary suspension of all federal and carbon taxes on jet fuel.
- Federal financial assistance for air navigation charges incurred for essential and repatriation flights during this pandemic period.
- That the government pauses all regulatory implementation and consultation processes that are not related to the pandemic. These include regulations that affect the sector as a whole as well as business aviation specifically.
- In the longer term, we look to the government to offer financial stimulus programs that would encourage the purchase and use of business aircraft, materials and services. This would be particularly important for leading Canadian companies such as Bombardier, CAE and Pratt & Whitney Canada as well as hundreds of other small medium and large companies that are part of the business aviation community, employing Canadians in such diverse fields as avionics, engineering, design, and many more.

Prime Minister, the business aviation community is proud to be part of the solution that keeps trade and commerce viable and repatriates Canadians safely and efficiently. But without federal support, the financial challenges would be devastating, especially to our air operators, FBOs and manufacturers/suppliers. We ask for financial aid that supports Canada's air transport industry that includes the whole of Canada's scheduled and non-scheduled providers, as we continue to keep Canadians connected and Canadian businesses – and jobs – sustainable and primed for future growth.

Prime Minister, we are standing by to work with your government, especially Ministers Garneau, Morneau, Bains, Ng and Joly and their officials, as we find a way forward together.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Norejko  
President and CEO

c.c.

Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport Canada - [marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance - [bill.morneau@canada.ca](mailto:bill.morneau@canada.ca)

Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry – [Navdeep.bains@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Navdeep.bains@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response - [Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages - [Melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion & International Trade - [Mary.Ng@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mary.Ng@parl.gc.ca)

Xavier Barsalou-Duval, Member of Parliament, Transport Critic, Bloc - [Xavier.BarsalouDuval@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Xavier.BarsalouDuval@parl.gc.ca)

Todd Doherty, Member of Parliament, Transport Critic, Conservative - [Todd.Doherty@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Todd.Doherty@parl.gc.ca)

Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament, Transport Critic, NDP - [niki.ashton@parl.gc.ca](mailto:niki.ashton@parl.gc.ca)