

February 16, 2021

Mr. Vance Badawey
Chair
TRAN Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Badawey,

On behalf of the Canadian business aviation community, a \$12.1 billion sector that employed close to 50,000 Canadians prior to the onset of COVID-19, **we are requesting an opportunity to appear** before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities to contribute to your investigation on the *Impact of COVID-19 on the Aviation Sector*.

We believe that this appearance will not only help dispel myths about what business aviation is, but also explain how business aviation, a critical part of the air sector, can help rebuild the Canadian economy quickly, sustainably and safely. Our appearance will also update and expand on the recommendations we made to the committee in our August 2020 pre-budget submission that included the need for government to take actions that supports the entirety of the aviation community, including business aviation, airports, air navigation, etc., as the current model is unsustainable due to the impact of COVID-19 and to help kickstart Canada's aerospace manufacturing economy by creating incentives to purchase or upgrade aircraft, equipment and avionics.

We are also seeking federal leadership to initiate a national testing strategy as a matter of urgency. In our view, the failure of PHAC to implement this type of strategy is creating unnecessary barriers to the safe reopening of aviation and our economic recovery.

Like our counterparts in the commercial environment, business aviation has been severely challenged by the impact of COVID-19 on its operations and demand. But, it offers more safeguards than scheduled service can at this time. Business flights provide direct access for fewer passengers per flight, all of whom are known to flight managers and easily tracked. Moreover, they are enplaned and deplaned in the highly controlled environment at Fixed Based Operators (FBOs), rather than airport terminal buildings.

Using on-demand and non-scheduled point-to-point flights, business aviation is an essential transportation service that connects corporations and communities, most especially when regular airline service cannot. Today, with Canada's major carriers cancelling flights to dozens of Canadian communities and international destinations, business aviation has become even more essential, delivering cargo, personnel and supplies (including vaccines), and ensuring that commerce and trade can continue to support local jobs and businesses. But it can do more.

In the longer term, business aviation can help give Canada's entrepreneurs and corporations a much-needed competitive edge, providing safe, reliable and rapid transportation of key personnel and goods, using some of the most technologically advanced and sustainable aircraft flying today.

Moreover, supporting the use of these technologies also supports Canadian aviation research, development and manufacturing giants such as Bombardier, CAE and Pratt & Whitney Canada.

Business aviation is a safe, reliable and efficient alternative to scheduled service, and an economic catalyst that can help reboot our economy as we emerge from COVID. We look forward to sharing our story with you personally.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to contributing to your ongoing deliberations.

Sincerely,



Anthony Norejko
President and CEO

c.c. Michael MacPherson, Clerk