

August 19, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Freeland,

On behalf of the almost 25,000 people employed by Canada's \$12.1 billion business aviation sector, the Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA) most sincerely congratulates you on your appointment as Minister of Finance.

By way of this letter, it is our honour to introduce you to the business aviation industry and open a dialogue on ways that our sector can contribute to Canada's economic recovery in both the long and short term.

One of the many lessons of the past months was to demonstrate the clear advantage of business aviation as a tool of safe air travel, corporate growth and community access, even as we deal with the severe travel limitations imposed by the pandemic. From this experience, the CBAA has developed a plan, *#cbaaflightplan*, that outlines how government, businesses and communities could work with business aviation operators to fulfill their own objectives – while strengthening Canada's business aviation operations and aircraft manufacturing sectors at the same time. We shared many of these ideas, including those that would provide shorter term solutions, in our 2021 pre-budget submission shared with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. We are pleased to attach a copy of the submission for your reference.

As the national voice of this dynamic sector, the CBAA works to educate Canadians on the many contributions business aviation makes to our economy and quality of life. We also engage with political leaders to create policies and programs that would allow business aviation to fulfill its potential.

While we hope to hold discussions with your officials in the near future, in the interim, we are pleased to share two critical, and perhaps surprising facts about business aviation that we hope you will consider in your deliberations and planning.

The first is that **business aviation can help kick start the aviation industry's recovery by piloting safety and health programs related to rapid testing and contact tracing**. Business flights deploy from carefully managed and controlled Fixed Base Operator (FBO) facilities where every passenger is known to flight operations and could be instantly and easily traced and contacted.

The second is that **business aviation can help enable Canada's Green Economy and recovery plan**. Not only can business aircraft give Canada's entrepreneurs and corporations a much-needed competitive edge, providing safe, reliable and rapid transportation of key personnel and goods, business aircraft are 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.

The fact is that business aviation has great potential to grow economic opportunities in every part of Canada. However, overly complex regulations, the spectre of a new “luxury tax” and a lack of incentives to upgrade or purchase business aircraft are holding us back.

Business aviation is made up of a group of dedicated professionals, and never more so than during these extraordinary times. Over the last five months, business aviation operators have safely repatriated Canadians, provided essential goods and services to communities across Canada, and contributed to our social needs by manufacturing PPEs, volunteering in communities and more.

Minister, please be assured you have the full support of the business aviation community as you work to find the right way forward during the critical weeks ahead. We stand ready to help in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Norejko  
President and CEO  
Canadian Business Aviation Association