



July 7, 2020

Hon. Wayne Easter, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 Canada

Via E-mail: FINA@parl.gc.ca

Northern Air Transport Association's urgent appeal for continued financial support of the northern and remote air transportation system

Dear Mr. Easter;

The Northern Air Transport Association appreciate the federal government's Northern Community Health and Social funding that has been provided so far to territorial governments. This important funding has allowed for the essential air services to continue providing support to Canada's northern and remote communities

All northern operators are making adjustments to their operations to reflect current demand and expectations of the post-pandemic marketplace. The essential nature of northern operations, however, restricts operator's ability to adapt since they cannot simply base decisions on the business environment but must also maintain an operational schedule to ensure the health and safety of the residents of the remote communities served. The need for further funding action by the federal government to ensure the integrity of Canada's northern and remote air transportation system is urgent.

The Northern Air Transport Association requests federal and territorial governments to extend government aid programs as required and to take steps to ensure that relief dollars are allocated efficiently and fairly. With large fixed costs and a huge drop in demand that will persist for months, if not years, it is clear that all northern and remote Canadian air carriers are in need of immediate and prolonged government assistance in order to ensure the viability and integrity of Canada's northern air transportation network.

Air transportation is a necessity for northern and remote communities. All aspects of society system safety, as well as any economic development depends on a stable network of scheduled air carriers and non-scheduled air services.

The industry needs a “Northern Canada ” solution that recognizes:

- The value of northern and remote Canadian air carriers to Canada’s economy and the quality of life of all Canadians;
- The essential role that northern air carriers play in providing critical service to, from and within the north as well as their role in the northern economy, the health and safety, and the overall quality of life for Northerners;
- That many seasonal operators, already marginalized due to the traditional winter slow period have not been able to restart their operations this summer or will be required to remain at a dramatically reduced capacity, and this is impacting the industry viability which is crucial to support the indigenous and northern tourism/outfitting/resource exploration business vital for regional economic development.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the membership of the Northern Air Transport Association, we request the Essential Air Services Funding Support, as well as the Emergency Wage Supplement be extended until end of 2020 with anticipation for ongoing support in 2021 to maintain the northern aviation system integrity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn H. Priestley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glenn" being more prominent.

Glenn Priestley
Executive Director
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