



March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honourable Brian Pallister  
Premier of Manitoba  
204 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Via email: [premier@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:premier@leg.gov.mb.ca)

Dear Premier Pallister:

It's not often that so many commercial air operators from across the country come together to speak with one voice, but this is an issue that has galvanized the commercial aviation community from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The Federal Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, is preparing to enact new regulations for pilot work schedules that will change the landscape of Canada's commercial aviation industry. This is the most serious issue facing the commercial aviation community in the last 30 years. The Minister has claimed that these new regulations are "science based", and that they will enhance safety in Canada. Canada has one of the safest aviation systems in the world, and our members have a vested interest in making aviation even more safe, but these proposed regulations will not achieve that objective. They will only make it more costly.

While the government touts its consultative approach, the Minister has largely ignored input from all but the largest scheduled international air carriers at the expense of regional carriers, float operators, charter operators, and helicopter operators. If the proposed regulations come into force in their current form, they will cripple many small and medium-sized commercial air operators, and drive up the cost of air travel and the cost of delivering cargo for all Canadians.

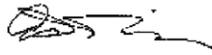
The proposed new regulations were not drafted to fit a diverse commercial aviation community, and stand to decimate small and medium-sized carriers. They will aggravate the current shortage of experienced pilots in Canada. Recent estimates project the pilot shortage to be between 25% and 50% upon coming into force of the proposed regulations. Canadians in northern, indigenous, and remote communities will be hardest hit by the new regulations. The cost of MEDEVAC services provided by aeroplane and helicopter operators will increase significantly. Many communities will experience reduced service, while others may lose service altogether, because higher costs will make the service unsustainable. These types of unacceptable consequences have gone overlooked by the Minister.

The provinces have been largely insulated from the debate on this subject but make no mistake, all Canadians and Canadian businesses in the four corners of Canada, including your constituents, will be adversely affected if these regulations move forward. Our associations believe that the Minister of Transport needs to pause, and to conduct a meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the commercial aviation community. We are urging you to contact the Prime Minister and bring to his attention the adverse impacts that these proposed regulations will have on your communities. Please urge Minister Garneau to get back-to-the-table to make further amendments to these regulations to avoid the crippling effect that these new regulations will have on Canadians and Canadian businesses.

Sincerely,



**Les Aalders, Executive Vice President**  
Air Transport Association of Canada



**A.D. (Bram) Tilroe, Director**  
Alberta Aviation Council



**Jean-Marc Dufour, President & CEO**  
Association Québécoise du transport aérien



**Heather Bell, Chair**  
British Columbia Aviation Council



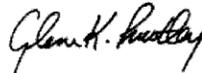
**Rudy Toering, President & CEO**  
Canadian Business Aviation Association



**Fred Jones, President & CEO**  
Helicopter Association of Canada



**Craig Skonberg, President**  
Manitoba Aviation Council



**Glenn Priestley, Executive Director**  
Northern Air Transport Association



**Janet Keim, President**  
Saskatchewan Aviation Council

(Same letter sent to all Premiers)