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STEPHANIE KUSIE, M.P.
CALGARY MIDNAPORE

October 22nd, 2020

Hon. Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
458 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Chris Bittle
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport
102 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Marc Garneau and MP Chris Bittle,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding how to respond to the critical situation facing Canada's aviation sector. Unfortunately, this offer to consider limited consultation with MPs comes far too late, given WestJet and Air Canada have already cancelled dozens of routes and neither Sunwing nor Porter Airlines have operated flights since March. Our aviation workers needed a plan from your government months ago.

Following discussions with my colleagues in the Official Opposition, we would like to convey, in the strongest possible terms, **that it is essential that you and your government urgently deliver a plan that supports the sector and Canadians.** This plan must ensure our regional routes are restored, travelers have access to rapid testing, and it must be developed through sincere consultation with key aviation stakeholders including small and large airlines and airports.

It is critical that all airlines, regardless of size, must have the support they need to keep their doors open and to restore regional routes to remote and rural communities. Regional airports served 14 million origin-destination passengers in 2019, with an average of 40,000 per day. Directly and indirectly regional airports in Canada generate 25,000 jobs. The loss of these jobs, through elimination of regional routes, will have devastating impacts on the local economies. You must ensure all regions across our country are well served by airlines.

As I have stated repeatedly over the past weeks, any plan must protect the health of Canadians while supporting vulnerable jobs in hard-hit sectors like aviation. Rapid testing is critical to reviving the aviation sector going forward and successful pilot projects being conducted at Vancouver International Airport and Toronto Pearson have opened the door to that. Your government must deliver a strategy that allows airports across Canada the ability to access rapid testing. This would provide significantly more reassurance

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to travelers and would be a positive movement towards the goal of establishing an alternative to the 14-day quarantine currently mandated to travelers arriving from abroad.

Airlines, airports and other components of the aviation sector have been devastated by COVID-19 and are legitimately concerned that their government is not listening to them. The Official Opposition urges you to start to work with these groups to ensure all of the hardworking members of this essential sector – and Canada's economy - are protected.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to seeing a comprehensive plan for the sector shortly.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Kusie, MP

Shadow Minister for Transport