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STEPHANIE KUSIE, M.P.
CALGARY MIDNAPORE

Hon. Omar Alghabra, P.C., MP
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

March 11th, 2021

Dear Minister Alghabra,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the tens of thousands of aviation workers in Canada who are still unemployed. Exactly one year ago Canada faced an unprecedented threat against the COVID-19 virus. Our aviation workers didn't hesitate; they were on the front lines repatriating thousands of Canadians who had been stuck abroad, and delivering essential PPE to our healthcare workers. These pilots, flight attendants, air traffic controllers, baggage handlers and many others in the aviation sector, were there for Canada when we needed them most - despite the risks to themselves and their families - but your government has not been there for them.

At the request of these forgotten workers, I am presenting you today with pins, scarves and letters from many pilots, flight attendants and other valuable airline personnel. Each one symbolizes a devastated family that your government has failed to help. They have asked me to deliver these to you and to reiterate how desperately sector support for the airlines is needed. These specialized workers are now struggling to put food on the table for their families and remain in the dark as to whether they will ever have a job to return to.

The extensive travel restrictions which have been in place in Canada for a year now resulted in the decimation of the entire airline sector. One year later, little has changed, despite repeated promises to the contrary and our aviation workers are still begging for sector specific assistance. Please listen to their message. These are real people who are hurting tremendously as a result of circumstances well beyond their control.

I am asking you once again to recognize the urgent need for a comprehensive restart strategy of repayable loans to airlines in exchange for consumer refunds, job guarantees, restrictions on executive compensation and restoration of regional routes. We cannot afford to lose these skilled workers, and this valuable industry.

Please don't leave our airline workers behind and save Canadian Aviation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kusie, MP
Shadow Minister for Transport