

February 2, 2021

Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Honourable Mélanie Joly  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland and Minister Joly:

On behalf of the Atlantic Canada Caucus of the Tourism Industry Associations of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island, we would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to Canada's Tourism Industry during this extraordinary time.

The federal supports that have been put in place to date have been outstanding and are greatly assisting businesses as they attempt to navigate through the impacts of the Covid-19 global pandemic; and, without such, the number of business closures would have been astronomical. As it is, the stabilization and recovery of Canada's tourism economy will take years.

Today we are writing in regards to our growing concerns in relation to regional air service. While decimated by COVID-19; we strongly believe that now is the time for long-term, strategic planning that will ensure as borders re-open and global vaccination programs advance, we are well-positioned for stabilization and recovery.

Atlantic Canada has unique challenges with its geographic location. What has taken years to build is at risk of disappearing without a plan to fortify our connectivity. Lack of access into various parts of the Atlantic region will have a long-term and devastating impact on tourism, trade and immigration. As we emerge from the global pandemic, financial and policy support for our airports in concert with a plan to ensure regional routes can be reactivated through airline incentive programs will be key to ensuring the competitiveness of Atlantic Canada.

Canada is the only G20 Country that has not brought forth an Air Stabilization Support program, and while daunting in its enormity, it is absolutely imperative to the Canadian economy that our air infrastructure and connectivity as a Country be preserved. Canada has a rich history of building and prioritizing its transportation network as an important part of our national identity – now is the time for our contribution to this foundational principle.

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As a result of its COVID-19 management Atlantic Canada is well positioned for renewed economic growth; however, we want to ensure we are able to leverage the opportunity with the resumption of robust air infrastructure and access.

We offer our collective support in any way appropriate as you address the critical issue of air access and connectivity in a Post COVID-19 era.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Canada's tourism industry.

Sincerely,

  
Darlene Grant Fiander, TIANS  
Chair, Atlantic Canada Caucus

*On behalf of -*

Carol Alderdice, President and CEO - Tourism Industry of New Brunswick  
Corryn Clemence, CEO - Tourism Industry of Prince Edward Island  
Craig Foley, CEO - Hospitality Newfoundland & Labrador

cc Sean Casey, Chair, Atlantic Liberal Caucus  
Atlantic Canada Airports Association  
Atlantic Premiers  
Atlantic Tourism Ministers  
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency  
Board of Directors - TIANS, TIANB, TIPEI, HNL