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Sent via regular mail

March 10, 2021

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Alghabra:

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLICY PRIORITIES FOR GENERAL AVIATION

Congratulations on your recent appointment to the position of Minister of Transport. As you are taking on this important role in unprecedented challenging times, we felt it was important to inform you on the issues facing General Aviation.

General Aviation contributes close to 10 billion dollars annually to the Canadian economy. This sector of the aviation industry supports the local airports that are the backbone of some communities. General Aviation also supports the flight training that resources most of Canada's commercial and airline pilots.

The Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) is the voice of General Aviation in and for Canada. This year, we are focusing on:

- ***Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19:*** Our members have faced challenges like airport landing fee increases of more than 400% and evolving restrictions geared to their commercial counterparts.
- ***Keeping General Aviation Accessible and Affordable:*** The rising costs of aircraft maintenance, aircraft insurance and airport fees, in addition to the mandatory technology upgrades are forcing many aviators to stay grounded. This in turn will lead to airport closures and changes to air traffic control services.
- ***Addressing the Pilot Shortage:*** Our country is facing a critical pilot shortage. Factors include increasing costs associated with flight training, as well as prohibitive fees and rules that threaten flight training units, especially those operating in large urban centers.

- ***Incentivizing Safety and Lifelong Learning:*** COPA, in conjunction with TCCA, recently launched a safety program that incentivizes participation through benefits such as potential reductions to aircraft insurance premiums. Adopting a rewards-based competency and recency program further fosters a culture of safety, professionalism, and lifelong learning within General Aviation.
- ***Ensuring that Canadian Skies are Shared Safely:*** COPA recently teamed up with Transport Canada to launch the No Drone Zone campaign. We are working with the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) community and the regulator to ensure that Canadian skies can be shared by all users in a safe and effective manner.

We would like to organize a virtual meeting with you and members of your team to discuss these issues and solutions that are vital to General Aviation and communities across Canada. Who from your office can we collaborate with and coordinate a convenient time for us to meet?

Thank you in advance for your interest in understanding the needs, issues and concerns stemming the aviation industry, in particular, General Aviation.

Yours sincerely,



W. D. (Bill) Mahoney, O.M.M., O.N.L., C.D.  
National Chair & Newfoundland and Labrador Director  
CANADIAN OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION (COPA)



Christine Gervais  
President and CEO  
CANADIAN OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION (COPA)

*Advance, promote and preserve the Canadian freedom to fly.*