

February 5, 2021

The Honourable Omar Alghabra  
Minister of Transport, Transport Canada  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Sent Via e-mail to: [Omar.Alghabra@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Omar.Alghabra@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Alghabra,

**RE: NAV CANADA Level of Service Review**

The signatories on this letter congratulate you and wish you a warm welcome on your appointment as Transport Minister. As you are well aware, you have been assigned a portfolio that has enormous challenges within it due to the effects of COVID-19.

Our letter comes as a follow-up to the letter you received on January 29, 2021 from the CEO's of the five regional airports impacted by the NAV Canada Review. Today, we are writing to you as a collective voice of community leaders to request your urgent attention to the matter of the review and potential elimination of our air traffic control towers and related workforce reductions.

Our airports have been assured a fair and transparent process. NAV CANADA committed to an outcome that would consider all stakeholders concerns, review each situation on its own merits, and ultimately produce a report in the spring of this year should they wish to materially modify service at any of our cities. We had been further assured that there was no pre-defined outcome prior to conducting meaningful stakeholder engagement, and that as this process ran its course, actions would only be taken if warranted but not before the full process was concluded, including concurrence from your office for any proposed changes.

Although none of the signatory airports on this letter, nor any of the stakeholders who have been involved with the initial discussions with NAV CANADA, agree this process should proceed we were all comforted by the fact that nothing would happen until the various processes outlined in the NAV CANADA terms of reference were followed.

Last week, it came to our attention that letters from Nav Canada had been sent out to multiple cities that included the following statement:

*"As a result of the significant negative impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic and the aviation industry generally and NAV CANADA specifically, **it is our intention to take the necessary steps to close the (Airport City) Tower and replace it with a flight service station.** This means that we expect that your current position **will be eliminated** from the Company and you are being declared vulnerable effective January 14, 2021."*

**We are unanimous in our collective opinion; this new information now confirms our early concerns that the outcome of these reviews was decided before they began.**

We ask that your office acts swiftly and considers the following actions:

- Advise NAV CANADA that under no circumstances will you approve the outcome of these reviews at Air Traffic Control sites.
- Encourage NAV CANADA to discontinue their process reviews at these sites.

Losing the Air Traffic Control services in our various communities would be economically and socially devastating. The communities and geographical areas that we serve are unique from one another and vast, acting as everything from points of entry into our country to the transport hubs for industry and healthcare workers into our respective jurisdictions. Both our national and regional economic growth and recovery from the pandemic depend upon our ability to sustain critical jobs in the sector and attract visitors and businesses to our communities. Given the dire state of the aviation sector, diminishing our service levels could not occur at a worse time.

Our confidence in the current process has been eroded and we ask that you work collaboratively with us to unwind this very unfortunate situation. We would request a meeting with your office to discuss this matter and are counting on your leadership to ensure the protection of vital Air Traffic Control services in our communities.

Sincerely,



Dan Curtis  
Mayor  
Whitehorse YT



Lyn Hall  
Mayor  
Prince George BC



Don Scott, QC  
Mayor  
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
(Fort McMurray) AB



Drew Dilkens  
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Sandra Masters  
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Sault Ste. Marie

c: