

Regional Community Airports of Canada

"A national organization dedicated to promoting the viability of Regional and Community Airports across Canada"



Regional Community Airports of Canada
Suite 220, 10610 Airport Drive
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April 21, 2020
<BY EMAIL>

Hon. Marc Garneau, Liberal, MP
Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
Tower C, 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

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RE: Airports Capital Assistance Program – COVID-19 Employment Projects

Honourable Marc Garneau,

I write to you today to bring awareness to the role Canada's regional and community airports can play in providing essential opportunities within our communities to create employment as we all do our part in working together through these challenging times.

The essential service and economic value of regional airports to their communities has never been more prevalent than in the recent weeks of this COVID-19 crisis. Our role in providing infrastructure and services for repatriation and essential transportation of people and goods is ensuring regions and their communities have the necessities to endure these circumstances.

Regional airports are also economic enablers that can offer unique opportunities to provide support for local job creation and economic stimulation as Canadians overcome and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Airports Capital Assistance Program is one tool that can be leveraged to provide timely investment with short and long-term benefits across the nation. The capital investments required for infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion at regional airports will be unobtainable for the foreseeable future. When regional and community airports proceed with projects the vast majority of labour and materials come from local suppliers. Infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion can provide significant boosts to businesses and employers within the local economy.

In recent years we have identified to all levels of government that the ACAP has been significantly underfunded to meet the needs of the 200 plus airports which are eligible. Large scale local projects are awaiting funding approval. Changes to the program's eligibility and funding criteria can be made relatively quickly in consultations with stakeholders.

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As participants in the ACAP since its inception, RCAC members are well versed in the criteria and processes of the program. We are ready with recommendations to create the urgent employment and economic support needed in this crisis.

Like all sectors of the aviation industry regional and community airports are facing devastating losses in revenue with limited opportunities to for cost reduction. While we applaud the efforts of rent reduction to Canada's National Airports System we must also highlight that the regional and community airports which provide the connections between our communities and the larger national network of airports require support.

We are ready to engage and assist in finding solutions.

Please feel free to contact me anytime for further discussion at 780-876-4222 or via email at bgrant@grandeprairieairport.com.

Yours Truly,



Brian Grant
Chair
Regional Community Airports of Canada

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