

September 14, 2020

The Honourable Stephanie Kusie, M.P.  
Calgary Midnapore  
Official Opposition Transport Critic

Dear Ms. Kusie,

On behalf of the almost 25,000 people employed by Canada's \$12.1 billion business aviation sector, the Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAACAA) most sincerely congratulates you on your appointment to the important role as Transport Critic in the shadow cabinet of the Conservative Party, the Official Opposition of Canada.

As the national voice of this dynamic sector, the CBAACAA works to educate Canadians on the many contributions business aviation makes to our economy and quality of life. We also engage with political leaders to create policies and programs that would allow business aviation to fulfill its potential.

By way of this letter, it is our honour to introduce you to the business aviation industry and open a dialogue on how, with federal support, our sector can help enable Canada's economic recovery.

Business aviation is a critical asset that creates economic opportunity and jobs, giving Canada's entrepreneurs and corporations a much-needed competitive edge as it provides safe, reliable and rapid transportation of key personnel and goods. As you know, business aviation has always been key to Alberta's economy, moving personnel and equipment to remote locations and to international markets.

Business aviation is a completely different experience from commercial air travel. There is no crowding, few if any touchpoints and known, traceable passengers. Business aviation's reliable point-to-point service has increased its value to companies and communities over the past few months. The statistics tell the story: In February 2020, the busiest airports in Canada were Toronto-Pearson, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal-Trudeau. In May, Boundary Bay, a general aviation airport in BC was Canada's busiest airport, and Calgary/Springbank was third busiest. During this prolonged shut down, business aviation flights have been on the forefront, repatriating Canadians and delivering essential services, personnel and equipment to communities across the country.

The benefits of business aviation do not end with its response to the pandemic. It also has great potential to grow economic opportunity in every part of our country while supporting hundreds of Canadian aviation and aeronautical businesses, including world leaders such as Bombardier, CAE and Pratt & Whitney Canada and made-in-Alberta success stories such as AirSprint, Nutrien LTD., Aurora Jet Partners, Canadian Natural Resources Canada, Enbridge Inc., Shaw Communications, Suncor Energy, Sunwest Aviation, and others.

But there are challenges that must be addressed first. Overly complex regulations, the spectre of a new “luxury tax” and a lack of incentives to upgrade or purchase business aircraft are holding us back.

Ms. Kusie, the persistence of business aviation, despite all of the current travel restrictions, demonstrates how important it really is. The information in this letter is very high-level look at this important sector. We hope to connect with you in the near future to provide more information and to work together to advance our common goals.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Norejko  
President and CEO



*Promoting and Simplifying Business Aviation  
Promouvoir et simplifier l'aviation d'affaires*