

Understanding the Caretaker Period and CBAA Implications

The caretaker convention is a period during a federal election when the government continues to operate but with significant restrictions. During this time, the government—led by the Prime Minister and Cabinet—focuses on routine administration and avoids major policy decisions, new spending, or appointments unless they are urgent, noncontroversial, or have opposition consensus. The goal is to maintain stability and fairness, ensuring the outgoing government doesn't unduly influence the election or bind the incoming one.

What the CBAA Can Do During the Caretaker Period:

1. **Encourage Voting:** As a non-partisan organization, the CBAA can promote voter participation without endorsing specific parties or candidates. This aligns with democratic engagement and doesn't violate the caretaker convention.
2. **Monitor and Inform:** The association can track campaign developments, analyze party platforms, and share updates with members about how they relate to business aviation issues (e.g., luxury tax, regulatory burdens, access, etc). This is informational, not political advocacy.
3. **Engage Candidates:** The CBAA can reach out to candidates or riding associations to discuss industry priorities, host non-partisan events (e.g., forums with all parties invited), or encourage members to do so. This is permissible as long as it remains neutral and doesn't favour one party.
4. **Plan Ahead:** The caretaker period is an ideal time to strategize for post-election advocacy, preparing position papers or proposals to present to the new government once it's formed.

What the CBAA Cannot Do During the Caretaker Period:

1. **Lobby the Current Government for Policy Changes:** Since the government is restricted from making significant decisions, pushing for new aviation policies (e.g., a strategic review or tax changes) would be ineffective and potentially inappropriate during this period. Such efforts will wait until after the election.
2. **Endorse Parties or Candidates:** As a non-partisan association, the CBAA must avoid any appearance of partisanship, which could undermine its credibility and influence with the incoming government.
3. **Expect Immediate Government Action:** Requests to Transport Canada or other federal bodies for regulatory changes (e.g., airport access or burden reduction) will likely be deferred unless they address an urgent crisis affecting aviation safety or national interest.

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