March 17, 2020

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
Via email: mintc@tc.gc.ca

Dear Minister Garneau:

The public health and economic effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) have created an extraordinary challenge in the Canadian airline industry.

Canadian members of the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) recognize that stabilizing the Canadian airline industry and restoring its indispensable role as a driver for Canada’s economy and supply chain is critical—as is protecting the hardworking Canadians who make it possible.

ALPA is the world’s largest pilot union and nongovernmental aviation safety organization. In Canada, ALPA represents over 5,000 pilots at 14 airlines—WestJet, WestJet Encore, Air Transat, Jazz Aviation, Wasaya, Calm Air, Provincial Airlines, Canadian North, First Air, Kelowna Flightcraft, Bearskin, Sky Regional, Air Georgian, and Perimeter.

ALPA pilots are doing their part to help keep the Canadian airline industry strong and ensure its continued contribution to the global economy. Throughout the crisis we have been working directly with individual airline management teams to negotiate agreements to keep these companies economically viable, our pilots healthy, their families protected from financial harm, and our passengers and cargo flying safely and efficiently.

We are committed to the health and safety of our families, our colleagues, and the travelling and shipping public, and we are unequivocal that any economic relief package must contain strong labour protections for the airline employees who have suffered—and will suffer—financial harm, experience quarantine or treatment, or need to care for a loved one. Any measures taken by the federal government to assist the airline industry must address both the economic and labour aspects of the industry.

Minister, we look to the federal government to safeguard the public health, limit the economic toll on the airlines and support their swift recovery, and protect the airline workers who help power this important industry. We understand that our country and our industry will only succeed in creating a remedy for this extraordinary situation with an unprecedented partnership among all who are involved and all who can contribute.
Airline pilots stand ready and willing to join you in leading this country and the Canadian airline industry through the uncertainty of today toward a healthy, strong, and safe tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Captain Tim Perry
ALPA Canada President
Air Line Pilots Association, International

c.c.: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. pm@pm.gc.ca
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