Dear Prime Minister:

I am reaching out on behalf of the Canadian members of the Air Line Pilots Association, Int’l. (ALPA)—the world’s largest airline pilot union—to say that not enough is being done to protect Canadian air crews from exposure to COVID-19.

Air crews are essential in keeping the air transportation system functional during the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, they are exempt from the requirement to quarantine when they land in Canada. In order for air crews to continue to provide their essential service, in addition to being exempt from quarantine, they require immediate changes to the process of entering and exiting restricted areas of airports. This includes expedited security and Customs screening, and most importantly, separation from passengers to the maximum extent possible.

Furthermore, adequate protections on board aircraft are needed, including protective clothing and cabin and flight deck cleaning between flights. Airlines must not be allowed to prioritize these protections at their discretion—this must be made immediately mandatory.

I have communicated these concerns to numerous government officials and, thus far, have received no response.

Regarding COVID-19 screening measures for passengers, the voluntary disclosure of symptoms is insufficient in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by passengers boarding flights. More aggressive screening, such as taking temperatures, are needed to ensure to the maximum extent possible that all passengers, both international and domestic, are adequately screened.

Prime Minister, I hope you can appreciate that time is of the essence. While ALPA members continue to voice their concerns to me with their firsthand experiences, recent media reports all but confirm that more effective screening measures and other procedures must be put in place now for all flight crews.
On behalf of 63,000 pilots who fly for 35 airlines in Canada and the United States, I demand that the government immediately announce and institute the above-mentioned measures to ensure that air crews are adequately protected and that all passengers boarding any flight, whether international or domestic, be properly screened. These efforts will help to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the air transportation system and ensure that air crews can continue to provide their essential service.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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

cc: The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P. (mintc@tc.gc.ca)
The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P. (bill.blair@parl.gc.ca)