



December 13, 2023

The Honourable Caroline Wawzonek
Minister of Infrastructure
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Minister Wawzonek,

NWT Tourism recently held their 2023 AGM and conference in Yellowknife, Nov 6-8th. The 3-day event was very well attended and was a great opportunity for tourism industry businesses and partners to learn, network and develop opportunities to work together in the future to further grow the tourism industry in the NWT.

During the AGM portion of our program, resolutions were brought forward and voted in by our membership to set advocacy priorities for our organization for the next year.

Resolution #3 – Transport Canada Flight and Duty Time Regulations, is as follows:

***Be it resolved** that NWT Tourism continue to support and advocate for northern airlines and the businesses that rely on them, to find a reasonable path forward amidst a severe pilot shortage, and the significant impact of the newly implemented flight and duty time regulations. Furthermore, NWT Tourism will work with partners to pursue the possibility of a pause and/or exemption on the flight and duty time regulations for the north until the regulations can be reviewed further and procedures can be put in place that work for northern airlines and the businesses to which they provide service to.*


As discussed during the Annual General Meeting, the tourism businesses of the NWT are heavily dependent on the aviation industry; in particular, tourism businesses that are located in the remote Northern wilderness are especially dependent on the aviation industry as there is no other means of transportation.

The changes to the flight and duty time regulations that have come into force December 12, 2022 have had a significant negative impact on Northern airlines' ability to adequately service the tourism industry. Now that the regulations have been in effect for almost a year, the aviation and tourism industries have some real-world examples of the impact of the regulations on the respective industries in the North. Unfortunately, developing a fatigue risk management system (FRMS) is cost prohibitive for small Northern airlines, and it is unclear as to the decision process once an alternate plan is filed under the FRMS. Thus, it appears clear that the newly implemented flight and duty regulations aimed to address pilot fatigue have neglected to also address the complexities of the aviation industry across Canada, particularly in the North where traveling by air is often the only method of transport and destinations are at a significant distance from each other.

We wanted to make you, and your department aware of the concerns that our industry has, and look forward to opportunities for us to collaborate to find solutions in this area.

Please find attached the full resolution for your records.

Sincerely,



Gerry Kisoun
Chairperson
NWT Tourism

c: The Hon. Caitlin Cleveland, Minister of Industry, Tourism & Investment
c: Pamela Strand, Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Tourism & Investment
c: Melissa Cyr, ADM Economic Development and Director, Business Support & Trade-ITI
c: Serge Corbeil, Director-Government Relations, Local and Provincial-Air Canada
c: Benjamin Ryan, Chief Commercial Officer-Air North
c: Trevor Wever, VP Business Services-Air Tindi
c: Trevor Wilde, Sr. Director, Sales and Community Relations-Canadian North
c: Terry Harold, President-Northwestern Air Lease
c: Susan Wright, HR & Safety Manager-North-Wright Airways
c: Jennifer Martin, Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships Marketing-Westjet
c: Aaron Speer, President, Northern Air Transport Association (NATA)

encl: Resolution - Transport Canada Flight and Duty Time Regulations