



January 22, 2024

Gerry Kisoun
Chairperson
Northwest Territories Tourism
PO Box 610
201-5204 50TH AVENUE, SECOND FLOOR
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1E2

Dear Mr. Kisoun:

Transport Canada Flight and Duty Time Regulations

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 2023, and congratulations on your successful 2023 AGM and conference in Yellowknife. I am pleased to hear that it was well attended and provided opportunities to work together to further grow the tourism industry in the NWT. Equally important have been your efforts to set advocacy priorities for your organization, one of which being Transport Canada Flight and Duty Time Regulations.

These regulations introduce new prescribed flight and duty time limits. They are intended to strengthen the safety of aviation workers and the traveling public by addressing gaps respecting flight crew fatigue management. The GNWT generally support Transport Canada's initiatives to enhance aviation safety. Nonetheless, we appreciate the challenges and frustration with the implementation of this regulation amidst personnel shortages in the aviation industry and recovery from pandemic restrictions and evacuations. We have been equally engaged in discussions with Northern Air Transport Association (NATA) and Transport Canada.

In my new role as Minister of Infrastructure, I will be raising this issue at an upcoming Federal, Provincial Territorial meeting with Transport Canada later next month. I will be able to also share my perspective with this table as the previous Minister responsible for tourism and the discussions we also had with various colleagues from across Canada. This is a challenge that many northern and remote communities experience, so it will be good to better understand from my various transportation colleagues how they are looking at addressing this issue.

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As you are aware, many of your aviation industry partners are also members of NATA. NATA has been attempting to work with Transport Canada to develop a workable solution in all sectors, particularly in Canada's northern and remote communities that fits with the unique operations of the North.

We understand that there are options available for industry to follow, one of which you have identified which is to develop a fatigue risk management system (FRMS). We appreciate your concerns that FRMS may seem overwhelming for small Northern airlines, it is however important for Transport Canada, NATA, and the airline industry to work together to further explore this option. Your voice and real-world examples would be helpful in advancing these efforts and tailoring an FRMS appropriately to recognize the size and needs of smaller Northern airlines without it becoming overwhelming. Advocating for change becomes more feasible as we continue to develop and enhance this option. Even if it is not the workable solution that industry needs, work on this could reveal alternative solutions and simultaneously help identify any potential issues with the current process.

The GNWT continues to encourage both NATA and Transport Canada, along with your strong voice and advocacy to work together on a solution to the identified challenges with flight and duty time regulations. The NATA 2024 annual conference has been scheduled for April 29 – May 1 in Yellowknife and we are hoping officials take advantage of this venue to meet and discuss a solution towards FRMS.

It is in all our interests to find a path forward on this issue. In the meantime, if your team have any further questions, please have them contact Mr. Kevin Dragon, Director, Air, Marine and Safety. He can be reached at kevin.dragon@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9084 ext. 33106 to assist with your continued work on this priority.

Sincerely,



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister
Infrastructure

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