



August 13, 2025

Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Transport & Internal Trade
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Via email: TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Re: Looming Airline Labour Disruption

Dear Minister Freeland,

On behalf of the members and stakeholders of the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC), representing close to 17,000 businesses and 350,000 employees, we urge the Government of Canada to intervene to prevent labour disruption at Air Canada. In view of the 72-hour strike notice issued by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) yesterday, action taken now is the only avenue to protect jobs and the economy in British Columbia and across the country.

Air Canada is an essential transportation service provider that carries up to 140,000 passengers daily to access health care, to visit friends and family, as well as for business and vacation. Even a short suspension of service will have major ramifications for all segments of Canada's economy, not the least of which is tourism during what is commonly referred to as the '*peak*' season. The airline is a catalyst for connecting flights and is also a direct link to BC communities with 150 flights per day carrying upwards of 30,000 passengers within our province, to other cities in Canada, and to many countries around the world.

As you are aware, Canada's supply chain would also be seriously impacted by the removal of a key air cargo link. Moreover, a labour disruption at Air Canada would lead to temporary layoffs at many airports and connected businesses across the country, and have major impacts on both Canadian and international travellers.

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Hon. Minister Freeland

In 2024, tourism contributed **\$50.8 billion** to Canada's GDP, accounting for **1.8%** of overall GDP. This marks **3.6% growth** from the previous year, outpacing the national GDP growth rate of 1.7%. Importantly, tourism is export-ready, attracting essential trade dollars from all over the world that are not subject to tariffs and directly support the Federal Government's focus on ensuring Canada is a self-sufficient economic leader. Therefore, we must protect our critically important and economically viable sector now and in the days ahead.

TIABC urges the Federal Government to call the parties into binding arbitration to help resolve this critical issue to ensure the stability of British Columbia's multi-billion tourism industry, as well as the entire Canadian economy. Most importantly, this pending labour disruption must be addressed now to protect the health and welfare of all Canadians.

Minister, thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We trust that with your help, a labour disruption at Air Canada will be averted.

Best Regards,



Walt Judas
CEO, TIABC
778-953-0620

CC: Hon. Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State,
Small Business & Tourism

Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families