



February 20, 2026

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon  
Minister of Transport and Internal  
Trade House of Commons  
Ottawa Canada K1A 0A6

[TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca)

**Subject: Implementation of the Flight and Duty Time Regulatory Sandbox**

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

We are writing today as a follow-up to our letter dated October 16, 2025. Since that time, the Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) department has completed their development, review and assessment of the Flight and Duty Time Regulatory Sandbox. The development of this concept by your team, was rooted in science and evidence and has been designed to enhance safety while recognizing the unique realities of remote Northern regions. CNASS has supported the development of this structured trial approach to these regulations.

The consequences of delaying the implementation of the Regulatory Sandbox for Indigenous and remote communities cannot be overstated. Current regulations restrict access to essential services, drive up costs, and compromise safety in regions where aviation is often the only lifeline. The Global Exemptions were a modest but meaningful step toward alleviating these pressures—and withholding them continues to harm the very populations your department is mandated to support.

CNASS represents a unified body of air carriers, service providers, and stakeholders committed to safe, reliable, and equitable aviation access across northern Canada. We urge you to provide a clear public timeline for the implementation of the Regulatory Sandbox and affirm your commitment to transparent, science-based regulation.

We remain ready to engage constructively and work alongside your office in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Marcil'.

**Laurie Marcil**  
Chair, Coalition of Northern Air Services & Stakeholders (CNASS)  
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CC : The Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services, [mandy.gull-masty@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:mandy.gull-masty@sac-isc.gc.ca)

