



February 19, 2021

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
Government of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

Honourable Fred Bradshaw
Minister of Highways
Government of Saskatchewan
Room 322, Legislative Building,
2405 Legislative Drive,
Regina, SK, Canada, S4S 0B3

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hi.minister@gov.sk.ca

Re: Regina International Airport

Dear Minister Alghabra and Minister Bradshaw,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), I am writing to request immediate federal funding to preserve our capacity at the Regina International Airport to ensure people will want to continue to live, work, and invest in Saskatchewan.

We have faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic together and we are happy to see that the end is in sight. Once it is safe to do so, citizens will want to travel again and businesses will want to return to full operation. But the pandemic has strained our airport in Regina; operating costs continue to accrue, and with NAV Canada recently issuing layoff notices, the future of the control tower is at stake. Its loss would significantly impact the airport's flight capacity.

If these NAV Canada changes remain, there are significant implications for all aspects of the air service industry. For example, Brandt has 1,200 employees in Regina, over 100 of which regularly travel to the US for work. Their training centre is currently located in Regina, resulting in many employees travelling here from across North America. However, since losing all US direct flights, employees have had to fly through Calgary or Toronto first, which is time consuming and inconvenient. Suppliers are also discouraged from visiting due to these challenges. If the airport control tower were to be unmanned, it is unlikely that any US airlines will resume flights from Regina. This will result in businesses relocating to places like Calgary, causing severe economic consequences for Regina and Saskatchewan.

In the short-term, operational funding is needed immediately to ensure our airport survives so that long-term plans, such as increasing the number of flights to and from Canada's major hub cities and seeing that US direct flights return, can be realized. Operational costs have been reduced as much as possible but this is still a severe, multi-million-dollar problem. Once it is safe to travel again, we must be prepared to quickly launch a strategy to encourage travel. Businesses must be reassured so that they can plan for the post-pandemic future and continue their operations in Regina.



No one could have predicted the impacts of this pandemic but now that we have a clearer picture, we must ensure that our infrastructure continues to support our businesses and is in place and ready to support recovery and transition to a fully functioning post pandemic economy. This includes the Regina airport.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce would be pleased to provide further comment and supportive action at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MKreuger". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Monica Kreuger, Chair
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

CC: James Bogusz, President and CEO, Regina Airport Authority
Stephen Maybury, President and CEO, Saskatoon Airport Authority