



March 14, 2016

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau:

We are aware that numerous others have been writing to you with respect to issues of concern to our membership. One of those to write to you is Mayor John Tory of Toronto. We have been provided with a copy of your response to Mr. Tory. That prompts this letter.

We are writing in the expectation that we can establish a direct line of communication with you and your staff.

We are deeply concerned that the advice and direction given to Mayor Tory and, through him, to T.A.N.G. and other like-minded citizens' groups would erase the investment of more than 4 years of effort engaging in the very types of consultation to which your letter refers.

In your letter to Mayor Tory you reference both the *Airspace Change Communications and Consultation Protocol* and the *Noise Mitigation Initiatives Engagement Plan* and suggest that T.A.N.G. in particular work with the Community and Environment Noise Advisory Committee (CENAC) of the GTAA.

We are, of course, very familiar with the two initiatives mentioned. They result directly from our representations to your predecessor, the Honourable Lisa Raitt. Without those representations and Ms. Raitt's responsiveness, those initiatives, we are certain, would not have occurred.

While these were welcome developments we can assure you, because we have been actively participating in these proceedings, that they do not begin to meaningfully deal with the root issues and the root problem.

While reasonable people may differ on what solutions may be appropriate to mitigate the profound impacts of aircraft noise on residential areas many kilometers away from any airport, one reality has clearly emerged from our efforts to engage with the GTAA and with NAV Canada and that is that the legislative and regulatory framework is flawed.

The reasons for arriving at this determination are too numerous for inclusion in this letter. What we seek is an opportunity to brief you and the appropriate members of your staff in this respect. This is not a local issue and will not be resolved at the local level.

We acknowledge the mandate and expectations the Prime Minister has for your Department, specifically:

.. to ensure that Canada's transportation system supports our ambitious economic growth and job creation agenda. Canadians require a transportation system that is safe, reliable and facilitates trade and the movement of people and goods.

We acknowledge that NAV Canada and its management of the civil air navigation system is a vital component of this mandate.

However, when the current civil air navigation management scheme was established in 1997 we do not believe it was intended that, when severe negative social impacts were caused by those managing the system, the solving of those impacts would lie exclusively with the corporate interests that caused them in the first place.

Nevertheless, that is the situation that exists currently and it is the situation that we seek to have remedied. That responsibility, we suggest, rests with your Department and with your fellow parliamentarians.

This is not, as many might wish to have you believe, a matter of 'nimbyism'. Our issues are similar to those of concern to residents of Surrey / Vancouver, Calgary and the greater Montreal area and have been recognized by, amongst others, your colleagues Carolyn Bennett, Chrystia Freeland and Rob Oliphant as well as your predecessor, Lisa Raitt.

We believe it is possible to mitigate the noise issues without impacting either the efficiency of the existing system or in any way compromising the safety features of that system. In fact, we see ways that both would be enhanced while, at the same time, giving proper consideration to the significant health issues that to date have been largely overlooked.

We very much look forward to having the opportunity to discuss with you the resolution of these issues that are adversely affecting residents of four major Canadian urban centres.

Sincerely,



**Sandra Best and David Suchon
Co-Chairs**

**Toronto Aviation Noise Group
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**c.c. His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto**

**The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs**

**The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, M.P.
Minister of International Trade**

**Mr. Robert Oliphant, M.P.
Don Valley West**

**The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

**The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, M.P.P.
Minister of Health and Long-term Care**

**Ms. Yasmin Ratansi, M.P.
Don Valley East**

**Mr. Neil Wilson
President and Chief Executive Officer, NAV CANADA**

**Mr. Howard Eng
President and Chief Executive Officer, GTAA**

**Mr. Jon Burnside,
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