

March 27, 2020

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Re: Support for Canada's Airports Facing Severe Financial impact of COVID-19

I am writing in strong support of the airport industry's request for immediate federal government assistance to survive the COVID-19 crisis. The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce continually impresses the importance of access to transportation and the vital service that our local John G. Diefenbaker International Airport plays in our economy.

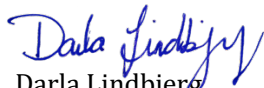
Canada's airports continue to work with public health officials to facilitate the safe travel of our citizens while also maintaining the flow of essential cargo supplies in a time of tremendous need. The Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport continues to act with a sense of duty to prioritize continuity as a critical community asset for essential travelers and the movement of goods such as supplies to the North, Air Ambulance and air cargo.

However, the pandemic has put an unprecedented strain on airport facilities and operating budgets. The Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport has experienced a 90% drop in passenger traffic causing a devastating impact to operating revenue. To make matters worse, operational costs related to safety, runway maintenance and passenger services are fixed, and stricter health protocols aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19 are putting an even bigger strain on airport cash flows. The grim reality is that many parts of the aviation sector could shut down without swift government action and relief.

For these reasons, I urge your government to support Canada's airports through short-term rent relief and a longer-term stimulus package as part of the overall economic recovery. I would also encourage a plan for the sector's recovery and airports' role in stimulating the Saskatchewan and Saskatoon tourism sector as soon as public health officials determine it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Darla Lindbjerg
President & CEO

cc: The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages