



The Honourable Marc Garneau,
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

Sent via email and mail

Re: Letter of support for the Oshawa Airport

Dear Minister Garneau,

As the leading voice for the general aviation (GA) flying community nationwide, COPA's mission is to advance, promote and preserve the Canadian freedom to fly". We are proud to represent close to 16,000 members from every province and territory who recognize the need for strong, effective representation resting on our core principles of integrity, commitment, unity and leadership.

One of our regional chapters located at the Oshawa Executive Airport, along with the airport operator and several of the airport users, have reached out to COPA in order to seek support regarding the surrounding residents noise complaints, specially targeted at flight training. Several noise abatement measures have been put in place as a result of a collaborative effort with the township, residents and airport operator and users in order to establish a balance between the quality of life of Oshawa residents and the economic benefits of the airport:

- No Departure turns below 1000 feet ASL (usually 500 feet ASL)
- Arrival turns will be made at 1000 feet (usually 500 feet ASL)
- Flights are prohibited between the hours of 2230 and 0630 local unless prior approval from airport has been received
- Training flight are prohibited at all times unless approved by the Airport Manager

In addition, NAV CANADA operates a control tower during the hours 0630 and 2230 local to safely manage the traffic mix and volume. NAV CANADA provides this service based on criteria found in their Policy for the Delivery of Air Navigation Services document.

Flight Training

The Oshawa Executive Airport is home to two flight training units. The Canadian Flight Academy has been operating from the Oshawa executive airport since 2016 after moving from the Buttonville airport due to its impending closure and attract students from around the globe. The Durham Flight Centre ("DFC") is a Transport Canada registered Flight Training Unit and a private career college under the Ontario Private Career College Act. DFC has been training pilots, renting aircraft and offering sightseeing flights since 1997.

The City of Oshawa prides itself as a pillar of education with its four career colleges and four post-secondary education institutions which includes three universities. The flight training units are and should be notable complements to this principal pillar.

General Aviation Economic Impact

General aviation has played an important role in Canada's economy for decades. Apart from allowing individuals to experience the joy of private flight, GA activities maintain and support a large amount of important infrastructure. Through the years, a dedicated industry has emerged that supports the needs of general aviation participants around the country, such as airports and flight training units.

The influence of General Aviation (GA) on the Canadian economy is significant. A 2017 economic impact study compiled by Vancouver-based InterVISTAS for COPA estimates that General Aviation operations in Canada contributes \$9.3 billion in economic output nationally (Ontario alone contributes 1.3 million) and directly accounts for almost 36,000 full time jobs in communities across the country.

The Oshawa airport continues generate revenue for the city and will continue to be a significant contributor to the economic growth of the City as presented last week in their 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan. Flight training units are huge economic contributors and any further operational limits should be carefully assessed prior to implementation as their viability could be at risk.

Safety Consideration

Flying in Canada does not come without its challenges. Rapidly changing weather is a real hazard to any pilot flying in our country. The accessibility to small and moderately sized aerodromes such as Oshawa Executive plays a vital role in the success of flights through this region when unplanned inclement weather is encountered or inflight emergencies occur. It is for this reason that NAV CANADA implemented a weather forecasting station at the Oshawa airport as its location is crucial in providing pilots and their passengers a safe place to land when faced with these perilous scenarios, and this at any time.

Training flights are especially dependent on good weather which does not always occur during the limited hours. The procedures that are currently in place at the Oshawa airport already restrict flight training and therefore further restriction could be detrimental to the safety of flight training.

Additionally, any further reductions in traffic, by augmenting the hours of permissible flights would reduce the flight traffic levels and would impact the level of service provided by NAV CANADA based on their level of service policy. The control tower is an integral part of the airport's safety management system. Flight training levels provide the required traffic to warrant an air traffic control facility.

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The sustainability of general aviation infrastructures such as airports and flight training units cannot be overstated. Not only are they important economic contributors but provide safety management systems for the flying community as a whole.

COPA understands the concerns of the Oshawa residents and welcomes the opportunity to assist the City of Oshawa to build a community ethos in which residents are respected and airport operators and users can continue to grow safely and contribute to the Oshawa economy.

Sincerely,



Christine Gervais
President and CEO - Présidente et chef de la direction
Canadian Owners and Pilots Association -
Association canadienne des propriétaires et pilotes d'aéronefs
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cc: Dan Carter, Mayor, City of Oshawa, mayor@oshawa.ca

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