



November 9th 2021

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Alghabra,

As our region awaits the announcement of the return of international service to The Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport, The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton (CCGM) is adding its voice to the organizations and associations who have highlighted the importance of making this announcement sooner, rather than later.

As international air service is scheduled to resume in February 2022, airline partners must be provided with advanced notice when international designation will be restored for the Winter season. In Moncton alone, the Winter Sun destinations represent 11 flights per week worth over \$1M in direct revenue, with larger economic impacts for our communities, including hotels, travel agents, restaurants, retail, concessions, etc.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has revealed many flaws in our transportation management system, particularly with respect to small and medium-sized airports across Canada, as outlined in CCGM's policy resolution titled "Measures to Support Canadian Small and Medium Airports", which was adopted with 99% support from Chambers across the country during the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) 2021 annual general meeting at the end of October, and is set to become part of the CCC active policy work. The travel industry, particularly airports like ours, and the others in the province, have faced significant uncertainty, and many challenges are still present. We therefore ask you to not add to the uncertainty faced by our region and avoid adding more pressure to an already over-stressed industry and avoid relocation of certain international flight services to other airports for 2022, which could lead to potential loss of service, as it will prove very difficult to get the services back once redeployed to other markets.

We are pleased to see the progress made with regard to a return to normal for international travel, and we look forward to Transport Canada ensuring our communities are urgently restored permission to resume international flights.



Sincerely,

John Wishart
CEO
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages and ACOA

The Honourable Wayne Long, Member of Parliament, Saint John-Rothesay

The Honourable Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament, Fredericton

Bernard LeBlanc, President and CEO, Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport Authority

Johanne Gallant, President and CEO, Fredericton International Airport Authority

Greg Hierlihy, Interim President and CEO, Saint John Airport Authority

Glen Rollins, Advocacy committee Chair, Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton

Mayor Dawn Arnold, City of Moncton

Mayor Andrew LeBlanc, Town of Riverview

Mayor Yvon LaPierre, Ville de Dieppe