House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Atlantic Canada Airports Association, Canadian Airports Council

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Infrastructure

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

There are 26 airports in Canada that are part of the National Airport System (NAS). Only five of these NAS airports have fewer than 500,000 passengers annually. This number is significant as several studies have shown that this passenger threshold is required to enable an airport to be financially self-sustaining. We recommend a change to the Airports Capital Assistance Program so these airports can apply for existing funds. The ACAP program supports safety related capital projects at airports with less than 500,000 passengers, but excludes airports located on crown land.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$5 million -$9.9 million

1 year

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

These five small NAS airports would like access to the existing Airports Capital Assistance Program, by removing the one program parameter, by which the are now excluded. The cost to the federal government to assist these five nationally significant airports is between $5-$8 million annually based on current Master Plans for the airport safety infrastructure requirements. The Airports believe some of the funds could already be available within the existing Airports Capital Assistance Program, which to to date in 2013 hasn't been completely subscribed by regional/local Canadian airports.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Airports are economic engines for the communities they serve and pivotal to the growth of business and trade in a local economy. Maintaining safe and secure infrastructure is paramount to the operation of airports in our cities. These five small Nationally significant airports are located in Fredericton and Saint John, New Brunswick; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Gander, Newfoundland; and Prince George, British Columbia. There are only five airports in Canada that meet program criteria in terms of level of passenger traffic, but are excluded because they are located on federal land.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The impact on our communities from growing air passenger and cargo traffic and connecting our cities to the world is big business, worth over $2.6 billion to Atlantic Canada's economy alone. The region's economic survival depends on the ability of our businesses to compete in this global marketplace. Airports provide this fundamentally important access as did rail and seaports in the past. Access to ACAP for safety capital would make these 5 NAS airports financially viable. Ensuring our strategic National Airport Infrastructure is safe and secure is of the upmost importance to Canadians.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

We are submitting Recommendation 1 in partnership with the Canadian Airports Council. We also support the recommendation made by CAC that the federal government continue its investment in visa processing. We also support the ongoing work to develop Electronic Travel Authorizations.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

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Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Topic: Please select from the pull-down menu

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

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Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided