

To: Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Attention: Clerk of the Committee

Date: January 8, 2020

Re: Request Presentation to Committee

Wasaya Airways is interested in presenting to the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs our concerns and recommendations to improve services in our remote Northern airports. Wasaya Airways is the leading provider of airline services in Northwestern Ontario. As a company created and owned by twelve First Nation communities, our mandate is to provide safe, reliable and efficient air transportation services for passengers, freight and fuel. We provide Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Passenger, Cargo and Bulk Fuel services to more than 25 communities daily in Northern Ontario.

As with all Airlines, we are not solely dependent on our own resources. For us to achieve our mandate, we require supporting services to be present – these include airports, aircraft services, and flight control services. Working together with partners in each of these fields allows us to deliver the level of service the public demands and regulates.

For us to depart to certain destinations, we require confirmation the runway surface has been cleared of snow and is safe for use. This is normally delivered as a Runway Surface Condition report (RSC) through NavCanada.

In attempting to deliver services, we are facing several roadblocks such as the following:

- limited infrastructure and support at our Northern Airports
- lack of runway maintenance and reporting at the Northern Airports
- gaps in supporting services due to limited working hours
- delay in snow clearing causes interruptions, cancellations and other challenges

To effectively perform required duties 7 days a week we require:

- additional trained staff at all locations with hours extended from the current hours of operation.
- maintenance hours at each airport be extended to match the increased level of uses of the airports.
- reviewing the historical provision of 3500-foot gravel runways in the north to match current safety expectations of 5000 foot paved or improved surface runways
- airports operated by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation be improved to the level of Instrument Flight Rules certification

Most of the communities we service are not accessible by road year-round and rely on us for all travelling requirements including the provision of food and fuel for basic existence. The enhancements required would allow us to safely provide community and guest requirements while improving efficiency and bringing down the costs involved to all.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak on these important issues. Please contact me at any time with questions or feedback on our proposed submission. I can be reached at (807) 624-8600 or tmorris@wasaya.com

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Kind regards,



Tom Morris
President & CEO
Wasaya Airways