



March 3, 2020

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister :

On behalf of the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees, I am writing to express our concerns about reports that Transport Canada is considering eliminating aircraft rescue and firefighting services at Wabush Airport. The fact that this option is being examined forces us to question both the rationale being used to justify the action and the process used to reach a decision.

Wabush Airport continues to provide a valuable and essential air link to the outside world for the people of Labrador West and Fermont, Quebec. The current and future projected movement of passengers and aircraft requires a level of professional aircraft rescue and firefighting services that must be maintained to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Any move to reduce or lessen these services, for example by requesting that municipal firefighting services be employed, would be a great mistake. It would be akin to asking an automotive mechanic to replace an aircraft mechanic – both are talented as mechanics, but both require two different kinds of specializations.

The people and communities of Labrador West and Fermont Quebec deserve the same level of service at their only airport as do other Canadians. They, and we, are not asking for any more than that and by the same token should not have to accept any less.

We, and the citizens of Labrador West and Fermont, Quebec await your positive response that Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting services at Wabush Airport will remain at the same professional level.

Sincerely,

Dave Clark  
National President

cc: Yvonne Jones, MP, Labrador  
Mayor Ron Barron, Wabush, NL  
Jordan Brown, MHA, Labrador West  
Unite Steelworkers, Local 5795  
Chris Bussey, UCTE RVP – Atlantic Region