

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2010

Mayor and Council  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5  
Email: [Clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:Clerks@halifax.ca)

Mayor and Council:

Re: Airport Development Buffer Zone

The purpose of this correspondence is to formally express the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's support for the proposed amendment to the planning districts 14 and 17 (Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law), which would restrict noise-sensitive land uses around Halifax Stanfield International Airport (HSIA), essentially creating a development buffer zone.

The fact that HSIA can operate around the clock is invaluable to the entire economy of Halifax and must be protected. We understand the concern of property owners in the affected area; however, the city must protect the interests of the majority of citizens and the entire economy.

As stated in the report to Council on the matter dated December 16<sup>th</sup> 2009:

- The airport generates about \$1 billion in direct and indirect benefits and has an employment base of about 5400
- Transport Canada has charted areas where noise impacts may be significant and recommends restricting development, especially residential, from locating within these areas
- The airport is planning to expand services and is considering a third run way

All of these facts support the need for a buffer zone around the airport.

It is the opinion of our members who are in the transportation industry, that HSIA's ability to operate around the clock is a competitive advantage, especially in terms of cargo transportation. According to the Airport Authority's Master Plan, Transport Canada has forecast a 3.3 per cent average annual growth rate for air cargo, projecting 39,900 tonnes will be processed at HSIA by 2020. The number of jobs that would accompany this growth cannot be jeopardized and for that reason we ask that Council support the airport development buffer zone.

Sincerely,



Valerie Payn  
President & CEO