



October 20, 2009

Mr. Tom Ruth
President & CEO
Halifax International Airport Authority
1 Bell Boulevard
Enfield, NS B2T 1K2

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, I wholeheartedly support the Halifax Stanfield International Airport's runway-lengthening initiative.

As the business and financial capital of Atlantic Canada, Halifax has a vibrant economy and a highly skilled workforce with experience in all aspects of the cargo shipping industry. As you know, Halifax Stanfield International Airport already lands more than 60 per cent of Atlantic commercial air cargo. A runway lengthened to 10,500 feet (3,200 meters) would enable Halifax to make the leap from regional air gateway to international air transshipment centre.

Investment in lengthening the present runway will mean that local companies producing high value, perishable goods and services can gain a larger share of export markets. Consumers can also enjoy goods shipped more quickly from any part of the world. The industry that supports Halifax's international air cargo shipments will also continue to build capacity and expand as a result of this investment.

Finally, air cargo and cargo-carrying passenger aircraft operators will be able to land larger airplanes, increase their market reach and boost Canada's international trade objectives by improving cost competitiveness in Atlantic Canada's underserved market.

We support your efforts to lengthen the runway because this development will help build sustainable prosperity and improve the lives and fortunes of thousands of Atlantic Canadian families. This initiative is a fine example of a sound infrastructure investment that will allow our region to make a meaningful contribution to Canada's international economic strength.

I wish you the best in obtaining this well-merited infrastructural investment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "V" and a stylized "P".

Valerie Payn
President and CEO