



Dec. 11, 2008

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
125 Sussex Drive (MINA)
Ottawa, ON. K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Baird:

On behalf of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, I congratulate you on successfully concluding air transport negotiations with the European Union. This occurrence resulted from the contributions of many parties, particularly chief air negotiator Nadir Patel. Please forward our sincere commendations to all of the people involved in this landmark agreement.

As you know, Halifax Stanfield International Airport is a linchpin in our local transportation infrastructure. Offering a total benefit to the economy of \$1.23 billion and employing over 5,000 people, its health is an invaluable asset to the entire Nova Scotian economy. I feel confident that this new agreement should attract more and better businesses to an already thriving enterprise. A healthier airport should help invigorate the transportation sector for Halifax and the entire Atlantic region.

The Halifax Chamber, led by its Transportation Committee, appreciates Canada's Blue Sky Policy and your efforts in finalizing the Open Skies discussions. The results of all these recent agreements, particularly those with the European Union, the United States and Iceland, give businesses more options to increase trade, investment and tourism.

Again, congratulations to you and all those involved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Valerie Payn
President and CEO

cc: Mr. Nadir Patel, ANA, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
The Honourable Murray Scott, Nova Scotia Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Mr. Tom Ruth, Halifax International Airport Authority