



Flight 106 Yukon
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September 15, 2017

Government of the Yukon
Minister of Highways & Public Works
Cabinet Office CM6

Attention: Honourable Richard Mostyn

BY EMAIL

Dear Minister:

RE: YUKON AVIATION SYSTEMWIDE REVIEW

Thank you for your response to our May 26 letter regarding the Government of Yukon's Aviation System Review. We only learned in late August of your response when a representative of your office was kind enough to forward the same to our attention after we had made informal inquiries about why we had not heard from you. (Your original response never made it to us either by way of the Canadian postal service or by email.)

While we are appreciative of finally receiving your response to our May 26 letter, we offer herein the following comments:

1. Perhaps our original letter was deficient in not detailing the reasons why COPA #106 was not involved in the Government of Yukon Aviation System Review and your contractor's (Stantec) process to conduct the same. We did not "**bow out**" as you have stated. In fact, there was no correspondence of any kind detailing any process by which we could participate that was remotely applicable to our organization. The only correspondence we received described a process for Yukon communities to provide feedback regarding their local aerodrome.
 2. Contrary to the assertions in your letter, the focus of our organization is to promote and preserve Canadians' rights and freedoms to fly – rights that are federally regulated and controlled, and which the Yukon Government, as an airport operator, is obliged to uphold and respect. The "privilege to fly" that you mentioned is, in any event, not relevant to the matter at hand. The real issue is
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whether or not Yukon's aviation infrastructure and operations are adequate to serve the needs of Yukoners and to promote economic development.

3. You have asserted in your letter that COPA #106 made a conscious decision not to attend the June 22 meeting of the Yukon Aviation Advisory Group to discuss the Yukon Aviation System Review. This is not correct. COPA #106 made no such decision. Prior to receiving your letter, we were made aware of, and applaud, the announcement by the Assistant Deputy Minister that the Government does not intend to implement the recommendation respecting closure of certain aerodromes.

4. COPA #106 is not the only stakeholder with concerns about the Yukon Aviation System Review. We have learned of other stakeholders who also have concerns, but were not consulted at all, in any fashion. Other stakeholders, including our organization, found the informal participation process inadequate with some of the feedback mechanisms completely inappropriate and ineffective for this undertaking (as outlined in the first point).

In the end Minister, it appears that while some good information was collected by way of the review exercise, the initiative has not by any means, been successful in garnering the perspective of a good number of Yukon aviation system stakeholders. While this is unfortunate given the considerable cost (\$211,000) of the project, the reality of this short-coming is that the additional information gleaned by a more robust and inclusive process would have resulted in a more accurate, authoritative and useful report.

We note and appreciate your comment that the Aviation System Review is supposed to be the beginning and not the end of the conversation. We hope that going forward, there will, in fact be meaningful consultations with all parties interested in the future of Yukon aviation.

COPA #106



Erik (Rick) Nielsen
President