

April 8, 2020

Minister Garneau
Minister of Transport
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Minister Morneau
Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Re: Support for Canada's airports during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Ministers,

Thank you for your continued leadership to support both employers and employees as they experience economic disruption related to COVID-19. As the situation continues to evolve, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is taking concerns from the business community and communicating them to all levels of government.

As a strong supporter of Toronto Pearson, the OCC would like to add our thanks for the Government of Canada's recent decision to provide rent relief to Canada's airports for 2020. We are keen to see further action to put airports on the path to recovery as soon it is safe to do so.

Toronto Pearson is an important partner to many of us in the Ontario business community, particularly now as the supply chain is more vital than ever. The airport, despite this challenging crisis, remains a critical piece of regional infrastructure and an important economic anchor. Normally, the area around Toronto Pearson is home to the second largest employment zone in Canada, next to downtown Toronto. The airport connects the entire country, creates jobs, facilitates imports and exports, and attracts tourism and investment. In short, Toronto Pearson will be essential to our local, regional, provincial and national long-term recovery.

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For these reasons, we urge you to support Canada's airports requests for additional short-term relief and a longer-term stimulus package as a component of Canada's overall economic recovery, and to rebuild public confidence in travel. The grim reality is that many parts of the aviation sector will continue to shut down without swift government action. Your government has moved quickly to introduce economic measures to help stabilize the economy and acknowledge the need to address the long-term viability and resiliency of Canada's aviation sector. We hope you can continue to move swiftly to provide support to Canada's airports, including Toronto Pearson.

Public health and safety during this pandemic are priorities for us all. We will continue to monitor and assess new developments pertaining to COVID-19 closely and work with our members, partners, and all levels of government to provide support to Ontario business.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Cc Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs