



The Honourable Minister Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

June 7, 2021

Dear Honourable Minister

We are writing to commend the federal government's announcements regarding the Airport Critical Infrastructure Program (ACIP), the Airport Relief Fund and the additional funding to Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) and would like to ask if fire departments who are servicing airports will can be allowed to apply to these funds.

You may be aware that from our federal budget submission that airports currently provide fire and emergency rescue services to airports. Under ACAP only airports with a 3-year average of 180,000 passenger pass-through were eligible to apply to ACAP. Communities that fell short of the threshold were excluded. For airports that met the threshold, at level 4, fire equipment was excluded from the eligibility criteria.

We believe it would be cost neutral and beneficial to all parties to allow fire departments to apply for airport capital assistance funds. We concur that "airports play a crucial role by continuing to provide essential air services, including traveling to medical appointments, air ambulance services, community resupply, getting goods to market, search and rescue operations, and forest fire response". At the same time, airports also rely on services often provided by the fire department.

If expanding eligibility to fire department capital and equipment for Airports is the intent, we would welcome clarification so that we can help share this news with our members. Alternatively, if further information is required, please do not hesitate to let us know. Your staff can reach us through CAFC's Executive Director, Dr. Tina Saryeddine, at tsaryeddine@cafc.ca or at 613-324-1078.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to the possibility of hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John McKearney
CAFC President
Chief Whistler Fire and Rescue Services

CC: CAFC Board of Directors