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Ottawa, June 11, 2015

**RE: Aviation Fuel Consortium**

Dear Minister Leitch and Minister Raitt,

We are writing with respect to a serious matter unfolding at Toronto's Pearson International Airport and Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport that impacts both of your portfolios.

Air Canada and a number of other airlines have chosen to walk away from their long-term contractual obligations for the provision of aviation fuel at both airports. This decision will result in the dismantling of the Canadian airline fuel consortium and the termination of hundreds of positions in both Toronto and Montreal. Furthermore, the nature of this mass termination has resulted in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) filing numerous unfair labour practice complaints with the Canada Industrial Relations Board.


This decision will eliminate over 300 good paying jobs, which will be replaced with positions lacking in benefits and near minimum wage compensation. As such, it is possible that this sensitive work could end up being performed by either poorly trained or unqualified workers. This would be inappropriate given the highly sensitive nature of the work being performed.

As a result of the airlines' decision to walk away from the aviation fuel consortium, they have also created the possibility of a major work stoppage at both airports. In particular, there is the possibility that transportation to and from the Pan Am Games could be disrupted as a result of this labour dispute.

Given these facts, I believe your government should immediately engage with both parties to find a resolution to this mass termination. In particular, we believe that it is of extreme importance that any shutdown of the consortium be delayed until after the Canada Industrial Relations Board has completed its investigation and issued a ruling.

We hope that your government takes immediate action to resolve this situation and New Democrats stand ready to help find an equitable resolution to this labour dispute.

Best regards,



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Labour Critic for the Official Opposition



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