



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

OCT 19 2017

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6



Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 24, 2017, regarding an issue pertaining to Class F designated airspace in your riding of Cowichan–Malahat–Langford.

As you are aware, Transport Canada administers the *Aeronautics Act* and the Canadian Aviation Regulations, both of which provide a comprehensive framework through which aviation safety is regulated. As a result, any new or amended flight training areas are designed in the interest of safety. With respect to the flight training advisory area in your region, I cannot confirm a time frame for changes. However, it is likely that a new area would also have an impact on noise associated with training operations.

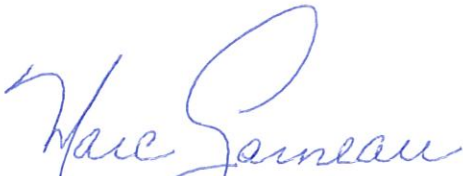
With respect to the issue of restrictions, airspace may be restricted as necessary for aviation safety and security. However, where airspace is unrestricted, there is no authority to limit the number of aircraft or times of operation. I should note that training aircraft are not limited to flight within a designated training area. The training areas are established to provide an advisory to transiting aircraft and are not intended to impose a limitation on flight training operations.

I should explain that the complaint process requires as much accurate information as possible, given that the burden of proof for an alleged offence rests with Transport Canada. If there are enough facts, such as photos, aircraft registration numbers and witnesses, and if an aircraft is within radar coverage, the department can corroborate information supplied by the public. I should note that over a non-built-up area, aircraft may be operated at permissible low altitudes for the purpose of flight training conducted by or under the supervision of a qualified flight instructor. Should population growth result in an area being considered as built up, then other minimum altitudes would apply.

Finally, as I am sure you can appreciate, aircraft noise management is a complicated and often difficult issue faced by airport authorities, the aviation industry and communities throughout the world. I understand that your constituents' interactions with the flight training companies may not have been to their satisfaction. Nevertheless, I would encourage them to continue communicating their concerns directly to the companies involved.

Again, thank you for writing and informing me of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Garneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport