

June 4, 2021

Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Regina
2476 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 3C8

Dear Mayor Masters and Members of City Council,

The Regina Airport Authority wants to thank you for your continual support and advocacy for our airport. As you are all aware, the airport plays a vital role for our community, economy, and overall quality of life for residents.

COVID-19 and the many restrictions discouraging travel have certainly presented challenges that we never thought possible for our airport and industry. As a self funded, not-for-profit company that offsets a significant portion of expenses through revenues generated through traveller amenities, such as parking and commissions on food & beverage, retail, and rental car sales, we have realized massive losses this past 15 months. However, we are continually encouraged by the resilience and determination of our community, partners, and the many companies here at YQR working to keep essential cargo, medevac, general aviation and essential travellers moving.

Unfortunately, with the border closures, mandatory quarantines, and advisories to avoid all non-essential travel, we have seen all transborder and international commercial flights to and from YQR cease, as well as a massive decrease in the number of domestic travellers and flights – less than 10% of our normal number of travellers in 2021.

Just prior to the pandemic, the Airport Authority was working closely with several partners such as, the City of Regina, Economic Development Regina, Tourism Saskatchewan, the Regina Hotels Association and the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce to actively market to an airline to establish a year-round, daily direct flight to a major US hub.

The City of Regina had extended a partial tax exemption to the Regina Airport to invest in air service development and retention. The purpose of this exemption, which aligns closely with the principles in the recently signed Municipal Agreement are to help keep the airline fees and charges competitive along with a focus on attracting a daily US hub flight back to our city. With the implosion of air service demand due to ongoing health measures and the closure of the US/Canadian border for non-essential travel, achieving this target within the original time-period had become impossible.

We are confident that we will still be able to attract a direct US flight once restrictions are lifted, borders are re-opened, and business and leisure travel can resume at pre-pandemic levels. We know that this flight is very important to the many businesses and residents who work and reside in Regina and it creates significant positive GDP impact for our region.



To further support air service development and retention, and to see the eventual restoration of US hub service, the Regina Airport Authority is requesting that the tax exemption be extended to the end of the original agreement's intended timeline. We will continue to work in collaboration with the City of Regina and the many partner organizations to make these ambitions a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Bogusz', is written over a faint, light-colored horizontal line.

James Bogusz
President and CEO
Regina Airport Authority