

09/05/2010 08:40 6139521458

DENISE SAVOIE

PAGE 02/03

Minister of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,  
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

JUL 29 2010

Ms. Denise Savoie, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Savoie -

I am writing in response to your correspondence of April 29, 2010, regarding the proposed water airport regulations and standards.

At the outset, I should note that there are many steps involved in the regulatory process, as well as many factors that may impact upon the prioritization of regulatory amendments. At this time, I am pleased to inform you that the regulatory amendment to the Canadian Aviation Regulations pertaining to water airports is moving forward, and I am confident that it can be finalized in time for pre-publication in the *Canada Gazette, Part I*, by fall of 2010.

In closing, allow me to assure you that Transport Canada's Civil Aviation directorate will make every effort to have the amendment pre-published within the indicated timeframe.

Thank you for writing and for providing me with your views.

Sincerely,

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

c.c. Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P.

Canada

April 29, 2010

The Honourable John Baird  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
441S Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

**Re: Canadian Aviation Regulations and Standards for water airports**

I am following up on your March letter in which you stated that, "In preparation for publication in the Canada Gazette, Part 1, the draft Regulations and Standards were reviewed by the Department of Justice, and the regulatory change regarding water airports was identified as a priority. As such, Transport Canada anticipates that Treasury Board will approve Canadian Aviation Regulation 306 in spring 2010, at which time the proposed regulations and associated standards will be published in the Canada Gazette, Part 1."

Almost two months later, on April 22, Kathie Keeley, Acting Chief of Regulatory Affairs for Transport Canada, wrote to one of my constituents that "the draft water airport regulations and standards will be delayed again given other regulatory priorities" and that "We don't expect for the regulations to be pre-published in the Canada Gazette Part 1 until the fall 2010 at this point."

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the certification of draft standards for the Victoria Water Airport. How much longer can the City of Victoria and its citizens be asked to wait for the federal government to pre-publish its regulations and standards – the only time at which the proposal becomes subject to public review? Public confidence in the competency, priorities and integrity of the government is steadily being eroded after a decade of delays.

Sincerely,

Denise Savoie  
Member of Parliament, Victoria

CC: Susan Woods, Jack Bragg, Frank Gatto, Marg Gardiner

DS/hs

Minister of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,  
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N6

MAR - 9 2010

Ms. Denise Savoie, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Savoie:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of June 8, 2009, regarding the Canadian Aviation Regulations and Standards for water airports. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

In preparation for publication in the *Canada Gazette, Part I*, the draft Regulations and Standards were reviewed by the Department of Justice, and the regulatory change regarding water airports was identified as a priority. As such, Transport Canada anticipates that Treasury Board will approve Canadian Aviation Regulation 306 in spring 2010, at which time the proposed regulations and associated standards will be published in the *Canada Gazette, Part I*.

Please note that the criteria used to certify Victoria Harbour Water Airport in 2000 are in line with the proposed regulations and standards.

I would like to clarify that publication delays were not caused by regulatory harmonization, as you suggested in your letter. Rather, higher-priority initiatives contributed to these delays. For example, following September 2001, there was a great deal of regulatory effort related to security. These efforts were followed by the drafting of safety management systems regulations. In addition, Transport Canada Civil Aviation undertook a comprehensive reorganization to provide more efficient, responsive service to industry and the travelling public.

I trust that the foregoing has been of assistance. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

Canada

The Honourable John Baird  
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Tower C - 330 Sparks St.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

June 8, 2009

Dear Min. Baird,

It has been brought to my attention by residents in my riding that Transport Canada has still not completed the final version of the Canadian Aviation Regulations and Standards, CAR 306/326, for Water Airports. I understand that Transport Canada will not have them ready until September or October. It seems that each time the new proposed date approaches the date has been put off for another six months or so.

The Victoria Harbour Airport was 'certified' on draft standards April 17, 2000, more than nine years ago. My constituents would like to know, and so would I, whether or not the airport can continue to operate on draft standards indefinitely.

It is understandable that the residents are now wondering if the years of delay are an indication that certifying this airport in this small harbour on a shipping channel requires an unachievable harmonization of marine and aviation regulatory requirements.

Is there a problem that is preventing these regulations and standards from being finalized? If there was an accident in the interim would some of the liability shift to the Government of Canada given this unacceptable delay?

I would appreciate receiving answers to these questions for my constituents.

Sincerely,

Denise Savoie  
Member of Parliament, Victoria

CC: Elizabeth Greaves

DS/hs