

Yarmouth International Airport Corp.



June 10, 2025

Honourable Chris d'Entremont, MP, Acadie-Annapolis
223-368 Main Street
Yarmouth, N.S.
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(via e-mail: chris.dentremont@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister d'Entremont:

New NATO defense spending commitment

We were heartened to learn and read about Prime Minister Mark Carney's aggressive plan to boost Canada's defense spending; to begin steps to re-assert Canada's position on the world stage and to re-invigorate Canada's commitment and role amongst its NATO partners as a reliable, credible, strategic partner.

Many opportunities will develop in the coming weeks, months and years for businesses and industries within the Canadian military supply chain network to play a larger supply/support role, or indeed to enter the supply chain for the first time. Besides increasing our national investment in military infrastructure, we believe it is important that the Canadian government place an emphasis on Canadian made solutions as much as realistically possible. Our military capability must be augmented by our independence. We must invest strategically in Canada, in Canada's people, Canada's technology, Canada's manufacturing sector, Canada's diverse resources.

Our geography lends us the advantage of optimizing strategic locations for supporting, building, training, storing, servicing and deploying our military apparatus. It organically allows us to literally spread risk, build redundancy and avoid the weaknesses that can come with clustering too much critical resource into too confined an area. In order to reduce our vulnerability that comes from the reliance on other jurisdictions for support, equipment, mobile assets, training, technology, operations bases and more, the entire geography of Canada needs to be strategically engaged as part of the defensive solution; working toward true independence, self-reliance and being the masters of our own destiny.

Yarmouth International Airport Corp (CYQI) believes it can play an important role in contributing to our strategically developed, national military complex. We have assets and infrastructure already in place. We have a prized geographical proximity to both the eastern seaboard of the U.S.A. as well as Europe. We have the real estate to expand, built infrastructure to work with and quiet air space to facilitate testing and training exercises.

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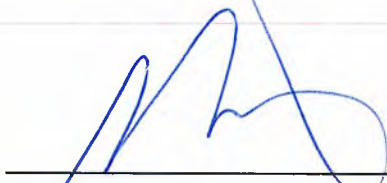
We are hosting a private sector operator now in the UAV space; designing, testing and building UAV assets intended for security and military applications. This demonstrates the value we can provide and the demand that exists. We want to build on this.

To be clear, we are very focused on our vision for CYQI. We are targeting the aerospace sector as a prime candidate for developing an economic hub at CYQI. This is the sector of the supply chain that we want to bring to Yarmouth. Existing partnerships and detailed 3rd party SWOT analyses give us evidence that CYQI has the assets to support this industry.

We want to leverage Prime Minister Carney's defense investment announcement into bringing industrial regional benefits, skilled jobs and increased economic activity to southwest Nova Scotia with CYQI as the logical platform for catalyzing this vision.

As our MP, we will be looking to you for guidance, advice and access at times, to influencers and decision makers in our nation's capital. We will be networking, collaborating, researching, investing, developing our business case and working toward our vision in the coming weeks and months. We are counting on your support and influential position to help us bring this vision to reality.

Sincerely;


Darryl LeBlanc, Chair
Greg Shay, General Manager

Cc: YIAC Board

Honourable Kody Blois, MP, Kings-Hants

Honourable Jessica Fancy-Landry, MP, South Shore – St. Margarets