

# TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 140

## DISTRICT DES TRANSPORTS 140

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
Association internationale des machinistes et des travailleurs et travailleuses de l'aérospatiale

March 24, 2010

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

Dear Minister:

I am the President and Directing General Chairperson of Transportation District 140 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), representing 12,000 Air Canada employees, as well as several thousand workers in other parts of the Canadian air transport sector.

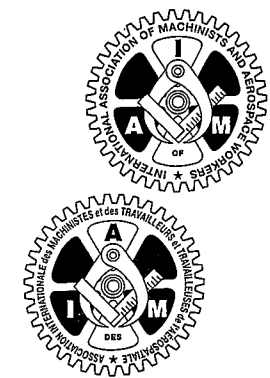
I am writing to express my Union's grave concerns about the future of the aircraft heavy maintenance sector in this country, its workers and their communities across Canada.

When Air Canada was privatized, the federal government explicitly promised in the enabling legislation, the Air Canada Public Participation Act, that heavy maintenance work and the thousands of highly-skilled jobs it provides would continue to be performed in Air Canada's bases in Montreal, Mississauga and Winnipeg.

This now seems to be an empty promise. Though Air Canada sold its heavy maintenance division to a new company, Aveos, in 2007, the IAMAW was able to maintain the employment of the several thousand affected Air Canada employees through secondment to Aveos.

Air Canada is now laying off 1,000 of these workers as the direct result of Transport Canada's decision to allow extensions to the time limits for major overhaul "checks" on certain Airbus aircraft. While the Union has had some success in negotiating provisions to mitigate the effect of these layoffs, a good number of them will remain permanent and they will still have a serious impact on these workers and their communities.

We and our members are very concerned that this is only the first step towards moving all heavy maintenance work out of Canada to lower-wage, lower-standard facilities abroad. This would mean the loss of thousands of direct jobs and many



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Page 2  
The Honourable John Baird  
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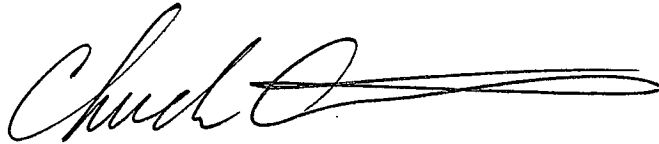
thousands more indirect jobs in Montreal, Mississauga, Winnipeg, as well as Vancouver, the other main overhaul base.

On behalf of IAMAW members, I am asking you what the federal government will do to:

1. Maintain employment at the Air Canada/Aveos overhaul centres?
2. Help this important Canadian industry to grow in the future?

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Chuck Atkinson  
President and Directing Generalchairperson

c: Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Opposition  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois  
Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Merv Tweed, M.P., Brandon-Souris  
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Lois Brown, M.P., Newmarket-Aurora  
Roger Gaudet, M.P., Montcalm  
Blake Richards, M.P., Wild Rose  
Bonnie Crombie, M.P., Mississauga-Streetsville  
Brian Jean, M.P., Fort McMurray-Athabasca  
Jeff Watson, M.P., Essex