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January 28, 2026

Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

Via email: TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacKinnon:

We are writing to you about the recent Privacy Notice and Declaration Form issued by Transport Canada to be signed by pilots. This has brought to the forefront a litany of concerns from our members about (a) the form itself, and (b) the collection, use and disclosure of personal medical information by Civil Aviation Medicine at Transport Canada.

As part of the world's largest pilot union and nongovernmental aviation safety organization, ALPA Canada continues to play a significant role in addressing issues concerning aviation safety. As an organization, we represent over 95% of Canada's professional pilots. These are the pilots employed at Air Canada, WestJet, Jazz Aviation, WestJet Encore, Porter Airlines, Air Transat, Canadian North, Flair Airlines, Air Inuit, Perimeter Aviation, Calm Air, Keewatin Air, Wasaya Airways, Kelowna Flightcraft, Pascan Aviation, Great North Airlines, PAL Aerospace, Air Borealis, Cargojet, PAL Airlines, and Morningstar Air Express. Together, we are over 13,500 Canadian professional pilots.

The concerns from our members are widespread. We urge that they be addressed by Transport Canada forthwith to ensure that participation in the pilot medical certification and examination process is informed, understood, and engaged.

New Form

On December 9, 2025, a new privacy form was issued by Civil Aviation Medicine at Transport Canada as part of the medical examination process. As far as we know, there was no consultation with or input from stakeholders. While we acknowledge that the form in existence prior to December 9, 2025, contained a "Statement of Applicant," the new form raised numerous questions about the reasons for the change, the scope of the change, and what "third parties" were being referred to. The lack of explanation coupled with a blanket threat that a failure to comply would result in the suspension of a pilot's medical certificate understandably created concern amongst our membership. After all, a lack of a medical certificate means no career in the piloting world.

We wrote to Civil Aviation Medicine at Transport Canada, and some changes were made to the form which we acknowledge. However, there is still a lack of clarity as to why the changes were made, and what practically they have changed, if anything, about the medical certification and examination process itself.

Questions and Concerns regarding the Collection, Use, and Disclosure of Personal Medical Information by Civil Aviation Medicine at Transport Canada

As we are sure you understand, the issue of privacy in a digital world takes on a distinctive and heightened significance. For professional pilots, medical disclosures are among the most sensitive and often private categories of personal information, and any perception that such data may be repurposed for unclear uses rather than strictly limited to the medical certificate and examination process creates anxiety for those providing such authorization and engenders a reluctance to engage.

For a number of years, we have seen far too many examples of pilots and other licensed professionals internalizing medical issues to keep their careers free from intrusion, and the reality is there exists a lack of clarity regarding how personal medical information is handled during the pilot medical certification and examination process at Transport Canada.

For example, existing questions of concern include, but are not limited to the following:

- How does the process of requesting information work with third parties?
- Who are these third parties?
- Where is pilot personal medical information stored and for how long is it retained?
- Who are the members of senior management at Transport Canada with whom data is shared?
- Is the aggregate data that is shared de-identified?
- Is the authorization provided by pilots in the Privacy Notice and Declaration Form for that medical certification and medical examination process alone, or for a different time period?

Clarity on these issues from Transport Canada, and engagement with stakeholders such as ALPA Canada, would help to address the concerns of our members.

The Medical Certification and Examination Process for Pilots as a Whole

While we fully recognize and support the importance of medical fitness standards in maintaining aviation safety, and we appreciate the work that has been done over the years at Transport Canada in this regard, we believe that pilot input at all levels is critical to achieving the highest safety standards for Canada's air transportation system. Rest assured that pilots understand their role in safeguarding the public, our country's air transportation system, and their professional colleagues.

We would welcome discussion with you and Civil Aviation Medicine at Transport Canada regarding the matters delineated above, and we look forward to building upon our shared vision for a robust, safe, and more connected air transportation system so that air travel remains Canada's safest mode of transportation.

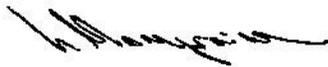
Sincerely,



Captain Tim Perry
ALPA Canada President
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l



Captain Gilles Boissoneault
ALPA Canada Vice President
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l



Captain Louis-Éric Mongrain
ALPA Canada Vice President, Administration & Finance
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l