

December 8, 2020
Scott Streiner Chair & CEO
Canadian Transportation Agency 15 Eddy Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0N9

RE: Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR)

Dear Mr. Streiner,

In reference to the follow up letter from the Canadian Airports Council (CAC) dated October 6, 2020 the Thunder Bay International Airports Authority (TBIAA) would like to extend our full support in requesting a further delay to the Canadian Transportation Agency's (CTA) Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR).

As we continue to navigate through the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thunder Bay International Airport continues to see devastating losses both operationally and financially.

Preliminary planning into 2021 has us forecasting a loss of \$2.5 million dollars, with Canada's air sector anticipating a four to five year recovery. This results in an estimated loss of over \$10 million dollars and counting.

In addition to our financial issues, the demand for our services has dropped tremendously. Our November volumes were only 16,135 people, representing a 75% decline from 2019.

To maintain essential day-to-day operations, numerous planned projects have either taken on a delay or have been cancelled entirely. The ATPDR provisions that have been extended to come into force for 2021 and 2022 still impose a great financial and operational challenge on us due to the ongoing developments of COVID-19. These provisions include:

- Providing information in alternative formats (i.e. visual paging)
- Developing training material in consultation with community members of persons with disabilities.
- Assisting persons with disabilities between the curb and the check-in for arriving passengers, and between the general public area and curb for departing passengers;
- Creating relief areas for service dogs, specifically on the secure side departure lounge.

The health and safety of our passengers, employees and the communities we serve continues, and always will be our top priority. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, numerous changes were implemented following guidance from Public Health. Expenses were incurred for items such as signage, cleaning products, tempered glass coverings, and air purifiers. These expenses will continue as rules and guidance change, and on a significantly reduced budget, they add up.

Ensuring we are compliant with the ATPDR requires capital expenditures as well as time and effort to ensure the adherence to these regulations. COVID-19 complicates this. Resources are sparse, with numerous organizations working with a “skeleton crew” or taking a reduction to their workload.

Courier companies are overloaded causing a significant delay receiving materials, and response time may not be as fast or immediate as it was pre-COVID.

We understand the importance of providing a barrier-free experience while travelling through our airport. We remain committed to meeting the new requirements of the ATPDR. However, during this unprecedented time we hope that there is consideration of our current financial and operational standpoint. Our focus to keep our passengers, employees and communities safe will always be our top priority.

**Thunder Bay International
Airport Authority Inc.**
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We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Schmidtke", is positioned to the left of the digital signature information.

Digitally signed by Ed Schmidtke*ck Date: 2020.12.09
08:53:22 -05'00'

Ed Schmidtke President & CEO
Thunder Bay International Airports Authority