

The horrible Canadian duopoly on air travel must end. The winners are the airline shareholders and the losers are Canadian consumers.

I moved to Canada in 2004 from the UK. I used to travel 5 or 6 times a year, and I used to visit cities like Paris, Venice, Dublin etc while paying less than CAD\$20 per ticket including taxes.

Since moving to Canada I have not travelled anywhere domestically or to the US, simply because prices are ridiculous and controlled by an obvious price fixing duopoly.

Check out any flight from Toronto to somewhere served by Air Canada and Westjet and you will see every time the price is virtually identical. The fact that there is no competition at all in Canadian aviation (and yes there are of course smaller airlines that service niche markets – but Bearskin Airlines doesn't help me if I want to fly from YYZ to YVR does it?) is terrible for Canadian travellers.

This is by far the most expensive country I have ever seen to travel in, and because of that I simply don't travel.

Canada desperately needs competition in its aviation sector and give the customer the ability to make choices and open up travel to those who otherwise would choose to stay at home.

The "virtual" airline concept has been successful the World over, and provided that the chosen air carrier is a strong one that is properly regulated, there is little risk.

I work in the industry (not airline) and support a strong regulator with strong values of protecting safety and the public, but this market is stagnant and controlled by two monoliths who have total control of the air market, its time for change.

Sincerely  
Garry Lewis