

## **HAC Makes Written Submissions on Transport Canada's Reassessment of Alpine Helicopter's Exemption to the Canadian Ownership requirements**

In 1999 Transport Canada issued an exemption to Alpine Helicopters from the Canadian Ownership requirements. Prior to the issuance of the 1999 exemption HAC was invited to make submissions on the subject and after consulting with its members did not oppose the application, based on Alpine's 28% foreign ownership. The 1999 exemption was issued with no expiry date. In 2006 Intrawest, Alpine's parent company was purchased by Fortress Investment Group LLC, an American based company that is predominantly foreign-owned, and the 1999 exemption was extended to apply to the purchase by Fortress without any further consultation with industry.

For reasons that are unclear, the exemption came under review by Transport Canada recently, and fearing that the Minister would make a decision on this issue without the benefit of input from stakeholders HAC made a written submission dated [August 31 2010](#) opposing the continuance of the exemption, and urged the Minister to consult with stakeholders on this important subject before coming to any final decision.

On September 8 2010 in writing, and on eight days notice, Transport Canada then invited HAC and a small group of operators to provide their comments on the reassessment. HAC then invited all of its members (Operator, Associate, Individual) to provide their input and received an extension on the comment period until September 24th to allow the Association to provide its members with a slightly longer period of time to consider this issue and to provide their input. HAC also invited Alpine to provide a written submission to HAC on this subject, which they chose not to make .

Alpine is a long-standing and valued member of HAC, but some of the substantive issues raised by the prospect of the continuance of the exemption, and the circumstances leading up to the reassessment drew strong criticism from our members. The substance of those comments were considered by the HAC Board on September 22, and captured in our submission of [September 24 2010](#).

Members with any questions or concerns should contact Fred Jones at [fred.jones@h-a-c.ca](mailto:fred.jones@h-a-c.ca).