



SASKATCHEWAN AVIATION COUNCIL
P.O. Box 9768
Saskatoon, SK S7K 7G5
(306) 664-2376

January 12, 2011

The Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C - 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

E-mail: mintc@tc.gc.ca

Dear Honourable Strahl:

The Saskatchewan Aviation Council is aware of the facts leading to the reassessment of the Alpine Helicopter exemption to Canadian ownership requirements. We are also aware of HAC's submissions on this matter.

At either a glance, or after a thorough look at the Alpine exemption history, it is obvious the reassessment policy has not followed protocols, and it is difficult to see any reason other than ineptitude for our national government not to play by its own rules.

The purpose of acting according to protocols in any request for assessment or re-assessment protocols in the matter of Canadian ownership of our aviation industry can only be to protect the national interest. When followed, these protocols are reasonable and efficient, as they have often proven.

However, in the reassessment of the Alpine Helicopter exemption to the Canadian ownership requirements existing protocols were *not* followed, and the careless and apparently random decision-making as to process and outcome bespeak a Keystone Cops approach to the matter. At best the credibility of the Minister is compromised. At worst, a precedent has been set that will open the door to 100% foreign ownership of the aviation industry.

Foreign ownership of Alpine Helicopter is intolerable and *not* in the public interest.

Following the Alpine request for an exemption to Canadian ownership requirements there were several points in the assessment process when Canadian stakeholders should have been consulted. If there was any consultation it was minimal and cosmetic. The ownership of Alpine Helicopters slipped into foreign hands by default. The carelessness exhibited in the history of the handling of this matter is amazing.

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January 12, 2011
Page Two

The Saskatchewan Aviation Council strongly supports the Helicopter Association of Canada in requesting the Minister to deny Alpine the re-issuance or extension of any exemption to foreign ownership regulations other than an extension to allow company restructure to bring Alpine into compliance with Canadian ownership regulations.

Yours truly,



Janet Keim,
SAC President

c.c.

Dave Anderson, MP for Cypress Hills—Grasslands (Anderson.Da@parl.gc.ca)
Kelly Block, MP for Saskatoon—Rosetown—Biggar (Block.K@parl.gc.ca)
Ray Boughen, MP for Palliser (Boughen.R@parl.gc.ca)
Garry Breitkreuz, MP for Yorkton—Melville (Breitkreuz.G@parl.gc.ca)
Rob Clarke, MP for Desnethé—Missinippi—Churchill River (Clarke.R@parl.gc.ca)
Hon. Ralph Goodale, MP for Wascana (Goodale.R@parl.gc.ca)
Randy Hoback, MP for Prince Albert (Hoback.R@parl.gc.ca)
Ed Komarnicki, MP for Souris—Moose Mountain (Komarnicki.E@parl.gc.ca)
Tom Lukiwski, MP for Regina—Lumsden—Lake Centre (Lukiwski.T@parl.gc.ca)
Hon. Gerry Ritz, MP for Battlefords—Lloydminster (Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca)
Andrew Scheer, MP for Regina—Qu'Appelle (Scheer.A@parl.gc.ca)
Brad Trost, MP for Saskatoon—Humboldt (Trost.B@parl.gc.ca)
Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon—Wanuskewin (Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca)
Hon. Lynne Yelich, MP for Blackstrap (Yelich.L@parl.gc.ca)
Fred Jones, President and CEO, Helicopter Association of Canada (fred.jones@h-a-c.ca)