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June 12, 2023

File No. GB-6410-03; 0110-20-LTC Chairs; 11-5595-30-10

Via email: [service@navcanada.ca](mailto:service@navcanada.ca), [raymond.bohn@navcanada.ca](mailto:raymond.bohn@navcanada.ca),

Raymond G. Bohn, President and CEO NAVCAN  
Marc Courtois, Chair of the Board NAVCAN

Dear Sirs:

**Re: Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region and Southern Vancouver Island**

I am writing as Chair of Islands Trust Council, Chair of the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee and a 36 year resident of Thetis Island. I acknowledge that I live and work on the territories of many Coast Salish First Nations.

The Islands Trust is a special-purpose government created by the Province of BC through the Islands Trust Act. It is unique federation of special-purpose governments (12 local trust committees and an island municipality) mandated to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of the islands and water between the British Columbia Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island.

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee as a follow up to a submission I sent in February 2023 in response to your consultation regarding "Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region and Southern Vancouver Island". This submission was a request for an extension to the consultation period as there was inadequate notice to allow us, and communities in the Islands Trust Area, to respond in a meaningful way.

I have had no acknowledgement or response to this request.

My previous email is attached as well as documents in our files regarding air traffic management in and around the Islands Trust Area.

I am following up further to alert you that our concerns are both environmental and social, and include concerns about degradation of the quality and enjoyment on the rural nature of the Islands Trust Area, and impacts on bird migration and habitat.

The Islands Trust Area has been continuously impacted by low-level transits of large and small aircraft including floatplane and helicopter. The noise, visual impacts and environmental impacts have always been a great concern to residents, visitors, and Islands Trust Council.

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***Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea***

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

As a side note, during Covid restrictions, the almost complete absence of aircraft traffic in some regions of the Islands Trust Area raised our awareness to what it is we have lost historically and what we will lose in the future as a result of aircraft traffic. It will be no surprise to you that what we have lost is the peace and quiet of the Gulf Islands. The sounds of jet engines, turbo props and rotary engines was absent or significantly reduced. Such a joy: silence is one of the unique amenities of life in the Gulf Islands.

We, the communities of the Southern Gulf Islands and the elected representatives of the Islands Trust are disappointed with the lack of engagement in an area which we think will be impacted the greatest by the proposed changes. Our communities and elected trustees need to know more about the process that has led up to "The Proposal", how have their interests been considered, and how can they have input into the process to effect changes that may result in a better outcome for all.

The interest in this proposal has been voiced by citizens and trustees specifically on Gabriola Island, Thetis Island and associated islands, Saturna Island and Salt Spring Island.

By way of a summary the specific concerns that I have heard are:

- Lack of consultation and too short a period to receive submissions
- A significant increase in the number of flights over Gabriola Island and Thetis Island recently
- The noise from these flights has increased significantly in the past year, impacting pets, livestock and wildlife
- No rationale for a change to the current flightpath from the east has been offered

I have also received questions about how many inbound YVR flights will be flying over the Gulf Islands each day and at what hours of the day or night.

I ask that this consultation process be restarted with adequate notice to provide the opportunity for Islands Trust Area communities to be engaged in more substantive way.

Working with local trust committees could provide you with the best opportunity to engage with community. I would be happy to advise you further on the best approach to achieve this.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Luckham  
Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee  
Chair Islands Trust Council  
Thetis Island Trustee

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cc. Elizabeth May, Member of Parliament, Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Nanaimo  
Doug Routley, MLA, Nanaimo-North Cowichan  
Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands  
Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee  
Islands Trust Executive Committee  
Islands Trust Website

Attachment:

1. February 3, 2023 email to [consultation@navcanada.ca](mailto:consultation@navcanada.ca) from the Chair of Islands Trust Council

Hyperlinks:

1. [Information to Pilots and Aircraft Operators \(21KB\)](#)
2. [Aircraft Operations In the vicinity of the Gulf Islands and west coast Wildlife Sanctuaries, British Columbia \(12KB\)](#)
3. [Map of Gulf Islands Noise Sensitive Areas \(61KB\)](#)

## Attachment 1.

**From:** Peter Luckham <pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 12:06 PM

**To:** consultation@navcanada.ca

**Cc:** Lori Foster <lfoster@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Clare Frater <cfrater@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Susan Yates <syates@islandstrust.bc.ca>; Kate-Louise Stamford <kstamford@islandstrust.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region and Southern Vancouver Island

Good Morning, I am the elected Chair of Islands Trust Council, I am requesting an extension to the public consultation period respecting the proposed Changes to flight paths in Greater Vancouver Region, Southern Vancouver Island and sunshine coast. The Islands Trust Area.

We have only recently become aware of these proposed changes from constituents, there has been to my knowledge no direct out reach to this government body who's communities interests are potentially significantly impacted.

We have consequently insufficient time to respond meaningfully in the window that you have provided for engagement.

I am formally asking for an extension of 30 days to enable us to respond accordingly.

Please respond that this request has been received with the contact information for the person or persons responsible for consultation within the Islands Trusts area of jurisdiction.

With thanks, Peter Luckham, Chair Trust Council

Peter Luckham Island Trust, Trustee, Thetis Island Chair Trust Council  
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island communities, culture and environment

<https://www.navcanada.ca/en/air-traffic/airspace-reviews/vancouver-airspace-modernization.aspx>

<https://www.navcanada.ca/en/vamp-quick-facts-about-the-nav-canada-proposal.pdf>