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NAV CANADA PROPRIETARY / PROPRIÉTÉ EXCLUSIVE

July 05, 2023

Peter Luckham, Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee and Chair Islands Trust Council  
700 North Road,  
Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3

SENT BY EMAIL

**Subject: Letter re: Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project**

Dear M. Luckham,

Thank you for your additional feedback regarding the Vancouver Airspace Modernization project on behalf of the Island Trust Council and the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee.

NAV CANADA is a private, not-for-profit company, established in 1996, providing air traffic control, airport advisory services, weather briefings and aeronautical information services for more than 18 million square kilometres of Canadian domestic and international airspace.

### Airspace Modernization

Safety is at the core of our operations; it is integral to everything NAV CANADA does and continues to be enhanced as the industry evolves in lockstep with the global industry and standards set by international and domestic bodies.

The airspace in and around Metro Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast, and Southern Vancouver Island is utilized by a large mix of operators including major domestic and international airlines, regional and commuter passenger transport, small private aircraft, flight training units, floatplanes, para-drop, sightseeing/photography, and helicopter operations. The region is home to the most complex airspace in Canada and hosts several airports including Vancouver International Airport (CYVR)—the second busiest passenger airport in Canada— as well as mountainous terrain and coastal weather patterns.

Our continuous goal to keep the airspace as safe as possible is at the centre of efforts to redesign routes for aircraft arriving to Vancouver Airport through the Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project (VAMP). It is imperative that a revised airspace structure be implemented to ensure resilient, safe operations for the region to meet demand for air travel associated with population and economic growth.

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Where practicable, local land uses were considered during this design process. It is, however, not entirely possible to avoid overflight of residential areas, especially in urban areas such as Metro Vancouver.

## Consultation Process

Public consultation is an important step in our process, and we take this activity seriously. That is why we promoted engagement actively and earnestly consider feedback within the constraints of safety, capacity needs and future demand.

Following the launch of our public consultation on December 6, 2022, we also organized a total of 14 public information sessions, both in-person and virtually, as early as December 19, 2022. A virtual public session was held for the Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo area on January 24, 2023. The online survey for public input remained available until February 6<sup>th</sup>.

This was a significant effort to promote awareness of the proposal, create a venue for discussion, and allow for those affected—or their elected representatives—to form their opinions and make informed decisions about feedback. In that context, we did receive robust feedback from residents of Gabriola Island.

While the official public consultation period has ended, we can confirm that the input provided by the Island Trust Council has been included in our assessment.

NAV CANADA is currently producing a consultation report, which will respond to feedback and makes recommendations as to next steps, including potential adjustments to the proposal. We continue to assess solutions for the area and feel optimistic that enhancements are possible that will be reflective of the feedback we received by area residents. We can further confirm that no changes have been implemented in relation to the proposal presented during consultation.

We remain open and available to discuss this project and look forward to potential opportunities to discuss this initiative with your team.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Bagg

Director, Stakeholder and Industry Relations  
NAV CANADA

Initials (VA/va)

Cc: Elizabeth May, Member of Parliament, Saanich-Gulf Islands