

SEP 10 2013

VICTORIA, B.C.

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

SEP 04 2013

His Worship Dean Fortin  
Mayor  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am responding to your correspondence of February 18, 2013, to my predecessor regarding issues pertaining to the Victoria Harbour Water Airport. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

I should note that studies conducted with respect to noise and air quality issues in Victoria Harbour have shown impacts characterized as annoyances rather than risks to health. Over the years, there has been a significant decrease in aircraft movements to below the levels found in previously conducted studies. Based on this downward trend, there is no merit in conducting another study at this time. Transport Canada will continue to closely monitor aircraft movements on an annual basis and look at conducting further studies, should there be a significant increase above previous levels.

At the June 22, 2012, teleconference between the City of Victoria and Transport Canada, it was noted that, due to the decrease in noise and air complaints, there is less urgency in re-establishing a Citizen's Committee at this time. Transport Canada officials are committed to working with the City of Victoria to establish the committee mandate, develop the Terms of Reference, work to identify community representation, and implement a venue for constructive and meaningful dialogue. I have been informed that a preliminary meeting with staff and councillors from the City of Victoria to discuss these matters occurred in April, 2013, with the intention to hold further discussions in the coming months.

With respect to the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs), the draft water aerodrome regulations, with which Victoria Harbour has complied, are expected to be published in the *Canada Gazette, Part I*, this year. The regulations remain unchanged from when they were used for Victoria Harbour's certification. For further information regarding the proposed publication dates, please refer to the Transport Canada website at [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca) for updated information.

I would like to reiterate that safety with respect to aviation and marine activities in the harbour is a significant priority for Transport Canada. We will continue to work with the City of Victoria to identify and manage issues wherever possible through continued collaboration and involvement, and as prescribed by our respective mandates.

Canada

cc. cancel ✓  
10/04

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LRaitt'.

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport

c.c. Mr. Murray Rankin, M.P.  
Victoria

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 18, 2013

The Honourable Denis Lebel  
Minister of Transport, infrastructure and Communities  
Tower C- 330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Lebel:

**Re: Progress on Victoria Harbour Aerodrome Issues**

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I would like to express my appreciation for the presentation provided by Transport Canada officials on December 6, 2012, regarding the Safety Management System for the Victoria harbour. We were interested in learning about this work, and were encouraged by the progress and positive safety results that have been realized.

We remain concerned, however, about the lack of progress on other issues we have been bringing to the attention of Transport Canada staff and elected officials over the past three years. I refer to the recommendations forwarded in December 2009 to address ongoing issues related to air quality and noise at the Victoria harbour aerodrome. Specifically, I would like to know what action Transport Canada will be taking, and when, with respect to noise and air studies in the harbour, and the reestablishment of a community committee, both of which were committed to by your predecessor. In addition, the significant delay in finalizing the Canadian Aviation Regulations and Standards (CARS) is a source of great concern to many in our community, and an indication of the anticipated resolution of this matter would be appreciated.

I recognize the fiscal challenges the federal government is dealing with at this time but would suggest that improved community consultation and quality of life for Victorians are mutually beneficial outcomes for both the City of Victoria and Transport Canada. To that end, the City is committed to working with your officials and other stakeholders to move forward on these issues.

I look forward to your response regarding Transport Canada's plans to address the concerns raised by the City of Victoria, and trust that all parties can work together to mitigate the floatplane-related issues in Victoria Harbour in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Fortin', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Dean Fortin

MAYOR

cc: Victoria City Councillors

Hon. Murray Rankin, MP Victoria