

February 23, 2024

File: 16-8400-01/24

Rahul Coelho
Director, Metro Vancouver District
Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada

Sent via: rahul.coelho@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Dear Rahul:

Re: Request for Reclassification to AOE/15 at Pitt Meadows Regional Airport

The Pitt Meadows Regional Airport is owned and operated by the Pitt Meadows Airport Society (PMAS). The Society, a not-for-profit entity, took over operation of the airport from Transport Canada in May 1999. Its mission is to develop the Pitt Meadows Regional Airport for economic and social benefit to Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, the North Fraser Region, and adjacent communities.

Pitt Meadows Regional Airport is one of the foremost community airports in Canada. The Pitt Meadows Airport Society is making significant investment into the rehabilitation and upgrade of current infrastructure at the Pitt Meadows Regional Airport. This is evidenced by the recent completion of the new state of the art 50,000 square foot terminal building. The Airport is an emerging "centre of aviation excellence" within the provincial landscape. It was recently awarded the BCAC William Templeton Award for outstanding initiative and achievement in the successful development of a community airport. Pitt Meadows Regional Airport is dynamically working towards strengthening its reputation as a business-friendly community airport. It is a major contributor to the growing strength and diversification of the aviation and aerospace industry in British Columbia, providing significant economic benefits and employment opportunities to the community at large. The airport benefits from several unique business advantages: strategic location, convenient access, long-term planning, cost effective management, diversified domestic client base, expanding international markets, and synergy amongst commercial companies at the airport.

The airport has been working with the Canada Border Services Agency ["CBSA"] throughout this past year to upgrade its designation from CANPASS Airport of Entry to AOE/15. This upgrade will substantively enhance operations and the flow through capabilities of our airport, benefiting not only the aviation community but also the broader region it serves. The current CANPASS designation places the airport at a



notable disadvantage compared to other airports that have previously secured the AOE/15 classification within the region.

The proposed reclassification to AOE/15 is of critical importance to the Pitt Meadows Regional Airport as it would allow for seamless aircraft arrivals from the United States without the requirement to clear customs at alternative airports within the region. This streamlined process is not only more convenient for aircraft operators but is also essential for the airport's competitiveness and growth.

The Pitt Meadows Regional Airport is experiencing rapid expansion, with several recent aviation developments completed and others currently underway. These initiatives are integral to the airport's vision and would greatly benefit from the advantages offered by the AOE/15 classification.

Thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively with the CBSA on this important airport operational enhancement.

Yours truly,

Nicole MacDonald
Mayor, City of Pitt Meadows

cc: Pitt Meadows City Council
Mark Roberts, CAO
Guy Miller, YPK