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Federal Election Questionnaire: *The Future of Canadian Aviation*

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) Canada is the voice of over 95% of Canada's highly skilled, represented pilots who play a vital role in ensuring the safety, reliability, and efficiency of Canada's aviation sector.

ALPA Canada advocates for policies that protect pilots, improve working conditions, and enhance the overall stability of the industry. As the aviation sector faces challenges, including labour shortages; concerns over the erosion of flight and duty time (fatigue) regulations, and the state of free and fair collective bargaining in our country, it is crucial to understand where federal parties stand on these critical issues.

This questionnaire is designed to assess your Party's position on the key issues affecting Canada's nearly 15,000 professional pilots, and their families. Your responses will be shared with our members to help them make informed decisions in the upcoming federal election.

1. Flight and Duty Time Regulations

- I. Flight and Duty Time Regulations (FTDT) were introduced to combat pilot fatigue and enhance safety for air crews and passengers alike. However, enforcement by Transport Canada remains inconsistent and there is an attempt by some in the industry to weaken the regulations. Do you support stronger oversight to ensure airlines comply fully with our fatigue regulations?
- II. Some industry groups argue the fatigue regulations have negatively impacted airline operations, particularly for regional carriers. How would you balance pilot safety and fatigue management with economic concerns?
- III. Would you support the establishment of a collaborative aviation stakeholder safety forum that includes ALPA, industry representatives, and government regulators to continuously review and improve pilot safety regulations?

2. Labour Shortage in the Airline Sector

- I. The aviation industry in Canada is experiencing pilot supply issues, sometimes leading to operational disruptions, increased workloads, and concerns over safety. What policies would you support to address pilot recruitment and retention challenges?

- II. The financial burden of pilot training is a major barrier to entry into the profession. Would you support federal funding, grants, or loan programs to make pilot training more affordable? If so, what specific measures would you advocate for?
- III. Regional and remote communities are particularly affected by pilot staffing issues, resulting in reduced air service. What role should the federal government play in ensuring sustainable air connectivity for these remote communities? What responsibility do airlines operating in the North have in ensuring they have appropriate numbers of pilots to meet air service demands.
- IV. How would you work with industry stakeholders, including ALPA Canada, to develop a long-term strategy for increasing pilot supply while maintaining high training and safety standards?

3. Free and Fair Collective Bargaining

- I. Government interventions to end labour disputes in the federal sector have become common occurrences. This action has disincentivized and negatively altered employer commitment to bargain in good faith. Do you support free and fair collective bargaining?
- II. How would you ensure and encourage free and fair collective bargaining and the constructive settlement of a labour dispute or work stoppage (either by strike or lockout)?

Closing Statement

Your Party's position on these issues will play a critical role in shaping the future of the industry. Pilots, airlines, and passengers alike rely on sound policies and regulations that protect careers, enhance safety, and ensure reliable air services across our country. ALPA is committed to advocating for meaningful solutions that support the pilot profession and strengthen Canada's aviation system.

Thank you for taking the time to engage on these important issues. Your responses will help inform our members as they make decisions about the future leadership of Canada's aviation industry.

Sincerely,



Captain Tim Perry
ALPA Canada President
Air Line Pilots Association International



Liberal Party of Canada Response

To: Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) Canada

Pilots remain critical to a country as large as ours. They keep our communities, families, and citizens connected.

Mark Carney's platform, *Canada Strong*, was released on Saturday. You can view it in its entirety here: <https://liberal.ca/platform/>.

Our plan offers a comprehensive set of measures to support Canadian industry and workers by investing more and spending less.

The Liberal Party of Canada remains committed to prioritizing safety in aviation, recognizing that pilot fatigue directly impacts aircrew welfare and passenger security. We support stronger oversight by Transport Canada to ensure consistent compliance with Flight and Duty Time Regulations.

Balancing economic considerations with safety requires active, ongoing dialogue; thus, we support bringing all stakeholders together to find meaningful solutions to these challenges, including representatives from ALPA, industry partners, and government regulators.

Addressing the pilot labour shortage is critical to maintaining a robust and reliable aviation sector. The crisis we are facing from President Trump's crisis is going to hurt small and underserved communities the most, including with airline connectivity. We remain committed to fighting these tariffs and their impacts as long as it takes.

In addition, we will support workforce development through targeted upskilling and training initiatives to help recruit and retain pilots, ensuring the aviation sector has the talent it needs for the future. We are also reducing Canada's reliance on temporary foreign workers in all sectors, focusing on upskilling and training a Canadian workforce.

The Liberal Party firmly believes in free and fair collective bargaining, and ALPA has proven that our system works through its recent collective bargaining efforts.

Additionally, we will invest over \$26 billion in infrastructure by the end of the decade, especially infrastructure that supports trade and unites Canada, including airports in the north and south of Canada. In the north, we will focus on dual-use infrastructure that supports civilian and military operations, so military aircraft can land in the same place that cargo planes carrying essential food and medicine do.

It's time to build. We look forward to working together with your members towards our shared objectives of a stronger, more connected Canada.



Conservative Party of Canada 2025 Election Questionnaire Responses

Flight and Duty Time Regulations

1. Flight and Duty Time Regulations (FTDT) were introduced to combat pilot fatigue and enhance safety for air crews and passengers alike. However, enforcement by Transport Canada remains inconsistent and there is an attempt by some in the industry to weaken the regulations. Do you support stronger oversight to ensure airlines comply fully with our fatigue regulations?

- A Conservative government will always put the safety of passengers and flight crews first. Fatigue is a real and well-documented risk in aviation, and we are committed to ensuring that Flight and Duty Time Regulations are enforced consistently and without exception.
- We support robust oversight by Transport Canada to make certain that these rules are upheld across the industry—because safety is not optional, and Canadians deserve full confidence in the system every time they fly. We commend the work of ALPA in bringing attention to this issue, and we will work closely with aviation professionals to uphold the highest standards of safety in the skies.

2. Some industry groups argue the fatigue regulations have negatively impacted airline operations, particularly for regional carriers. How would you balance pilot safety and fatigue management with economic concerns?

- Pilot fatigue management and operational efficiency are not mutually exclusive—they must go hand in hand. A Conservative government believes that operational realities should never come at the cost of safety, and we are committed to ensuring that fatigue mitigation strategies are upheld across all air carriers, large and small.
- We also recognize that regional carriers face unique logistical challenges, and we will work with them to explore solutions that protect pilot wellness while maintaining service delivery. Our focus will be on outcomes that preserve safety, uphold regulatory integrity, and reflect common-sense collaboration with those who understand aviation best—including ALPA and its members.

3. Would you support the establishment of a collaborative aviation stakeholder safety forum that includes ALPA, industry representatives, and government

regulators to continuously review and improve pilot safety regulations?

- We strongly support the creation of a collaborative aviation safety forum that brings together ALPA, Transport Canada, and industry stakeholders. A Conservative government will champion this kind of initiative because we believe Canada's aviation sector benefits most when professionals, regulators, and operators are working together—not in silos. Regular dialogue, data-sharing, and joint problem-solving will help us ensure that safety regulations remain both current and effective. We welcome ALPA's leadership in promoting this forum and look forward to advancing it in partnership with the broader aviation community.

Labour Shortage in the Airline Sector

1. The aviation industry in Canada is experiencing pilot supply issues, sometimes leading to operational disruptions, increased workloads, and concerns over safety. What policies would you support to address pilot recruitment and retention challenges?

- A Conservative government understands that a strong and resilient aviation workforce is essential to Canada's economic vitality, regional connectivity, and public safety. We will support a national approach to workforce development that strengthens access to professional training and improves credential mobility. This approach will help fast-track qualified candidates into the profession and ease bottlenecks in the system. By reducing red tape and encouraging industry-led solutions, we'll help attract and retain more pilots, protect safety standards, and ensure Canada's aviation sector is prepared to meet growing demand. We are committed to working with aviation professionals to restore pride, purpose, and long-term stability to the sector.

2. The financial burden of pilot training is a major barrier to entry into the profession. Would you support federal funding, grants, or loan programs to make pilot training more affordable? If so, what specific measures would you advocate for?

- We believe cost should not be a barrier for qualified individuals who want to pursue a career in aviation. That's why a Conservative government will work with the sector to support more affordable access to high-quality training pathways. Building on our broader commitment to expand skilled trades and credentialing access, we will work to support financial mechanisms—such as education savings tools and industry-driven partnerships—that help more Canadians enter and thrive in high-demand professions like aviation. By simplifying pathways into the profession and supporting financial flexibility, we can help build a more diverse and accessible pipeline of future pilots while preserving excellence in training.

3. Regional and remote communities are particularly affected by pilot staffing issues, resulting in reduced air service. What role should the federal government play in ensuring sustainable air connectivity for these remote

communities? What responsibility do airlines operating in the North have in ensuring they have appropriate numbers of pilots to meet air service demands. Connecting remote and northern communities is a national priority.

- A Conservative government will ensure that all Canadians—regardless of geography—can rely on safe and dependable air service. Our broader infrastructure strategy includes investments in remote logistics, support for transportation resilience, and stronger partnerships with operators serving these regions. We will work with air carriers and local governments to support long-term operational viability while recognizing that communities in the North face unique logistical and service delivery challenges. Through better planning, workforce support, and modernized service standards, we'll strengthen the sustainability of northern air routes and ensure no community is left behind.

4. How would you work with industry stakeholders, including ALPA Canada, to develop a long-term strategy for increasing pilot supply while maintaining high training and safety standards?

- We view ALPA Canada as a key partner in the future of Canadian aviation. A Conservative government will prioritize long-term, collaborative workforce planning to meet industry needs while maintaining the highest standards of safety and training. Our approach is rooted in real-world consultation, practical reforms, and outcomes that serve both the industry and the Canadian public. Through partnerships with training institutions, aviation employers, and labour organizations, we will build a robust and future-ready aviation sector. By investing in credential recognition, cutting red tape, and empowering workers through choice and opportunity, we can ensure that Canada's pilot supply meets the needs of today and tomorrow—safely and sustainably.

Free and Fair Collective Bargaining

1. Government interventions to end labour disputes in the federal sector have become common occurrences. This action has disincentivized and negatively altered employer commitment to bargain in good faith. Do you support free and fair collective bargaining?

- A Conservative government firmly supports the principle of free and fair collective bargaining. We recognize that when employers and unions are given the space to negotiate in good faith, the outcomes are stronger, more durable, and more respectful of everyone involved. We are committed to upholding this balance and ensuring that the federal government does not become a routine participant in the bargaining process. As Poilievre said last year during ALPA negotiations with Air Canada, he “stands with the pilots and their right to fight for a fair deal [and] good wages.”

Our starting point will always be to empower the parties at the table to resolve disputes constructively and independently. We respect ALPA's long-standing commitment to this principle and view organized labour as an essential partner in maintaining high standards of safety, professionalism, and fairness in Canada's aviation system.

2. How would you ensure and encourage free and fair collective bargaining and the constructive settlement of a labour dispute or work stoppage (either by strike or lockout)?

- To support constructive labour relations and the fair resolution of disputes, a Conservative government will foster a framework built on transparency, mutual respect, and the timely exchange of information between all parties. We will encourage mediation and early intervention tools that help avoid escalation, while ensuring that both unions and employers have the freedom to exercise their rights under the law. Our goal is to support stable, long-term solutions reached through direct negotiation. We see labour organizations like ALPA not just as stakeholders, but as partners in building a resilient and world-class aviation sector, and we will work alongside you to promote a collective bargaining environment grounded in integrity and respect.



NDP 2025 Election Questionnaire Response

Thank you for taking the time to reach out about the important issues facing pilots in Canada, in particular labour supply, safety, and the need for free and fair collective bargaining.

We are pleased to respond to your questions and look forward to a strong relationship with your union members and leadership.

1. Flight and Duty Time Regulations

- i) Yes. We support stronger oversight of airlines to fully comply with fatigue regulations, and look forward to working with ALPA and Transport Canada to make this a priority.
- ii) Passenger and crew safety should always be the top priority.
- iii) Yes, we are supportive of a collaborative aviation stakeholder safety forum as you outline.

2. Labour Shortage in the Airline Sector

- i) We look forward to working with ALPA to develop solutions that ensure Canada has enough trained pilots. In addition to training, we believe that salaries and working conditions are essential to recruiting people into the profession, and a key role for the federal government is protecting collective bargaining and enforcing safety through Transport Canada.
- ii) An NDP government would work with ALPA, as well as Canada's colleges and universities to ensure aviation programs are resourced, and explore options for greater affordability.
- iii) Airlines serving Northern and Remote communities have a responsibility to hire enough flight crews to ensure they can service their customers safely. New Democrats have committed to doing the government's part of committing to northern infrastructure development which can include paving runways, and ensuring northern and remote airports are safely operated, and to ensuring Transport Canada enforces regulations, it's up to airlines to hire pilots.

iv) An NDP government would work with social partners (workers and employer), impacted communities, colleges and universities to develop a strategy to train and retain enough pilots to serve Canada's needs.

3. Free and Fair Collective Bargaining

i) New Democrats support free and fair collective bargaining; it's why we delivered anti-scab legislation in the federal sector during the last government. We believe the Liberal government has used "back to work" legislation in a way that has undermined the rights of workers across Canada.

ii) The best way to resolve a labour dispute is at the bargaining table. Back to work legislation is corrosive to the rights of workers, and to people's fundamental labour rights.



Attn: Captain Tim Perry
President, ALPA Canada

Dear Sir,

Please see attached the answers to the questionnaire which was sent to us regarding the 2025 federal election. We hope that these answers will provide you with insight on our political action. Within the next few days, more details on our policies will be posted to our website:
<http://blocquebecois.org/>

Sincerely,
The 2025 Bloc Québécois Election Team

1. Rules Governing Flight and Service Times

- IV. Question : Flight and Duty Time Regulations (FTDT) were introduced to combat pilot fatigue and enhance safety for air crews and passengers alike. However, enforcement by Transport Canada remains inconsistent and there is an attempt by some in the industry to weaken the regulations. Do you support stronger oversight to ensure airlines comply fully with our fatigue regulations?

Answer: Yes, the Bloc Québécois finds it unacceptable that basic safety regulations are not strictly enforced.

- V. Question : Some industry groups argue the fatigue regulations have negatively impacted airline operations, particularly for regional carriers. How would you balance pilot safety and fatigue management with economic concerns?

Answer: Companies have often had access to generous government assistance during times of crisis, such as during the COVID19 pandemic, yet have also offered generous bonuses to their executives. We believe that passenger safety is non-negotiable and that companies must make cuts to executives' bonuses and salaries before making cuts to safety.

- VI. Question : Would you support the establishment of a collaborative aviation stakeholder safety forum that includes ALPA, industry representatives, and government regulators to continuously review and improve pilot safety regulations?

Answer: Yes, we are always open to discussing new potential solutions.

2. Labour Shortages in the Air Travel Industry

- V. Question : The aviation industry in Canada is experiencing pilot supply issues, sometimes leading to operational disruptions, increased workloads, and concerns over safety. What policies would you support to address pilot recruitment and retention challenges?

Answer: The Bloc Québécois supports several measures which would help the industry. For example, we hope to eliminate the luxury tax on airplanes to encourage growth in the charter flight industry and help less experienced pilots to increase their flight hours. We also hope that Ottawa ends the security tax at regional airports. This would increase flight profitability and contribute to increased financial stability for pilots who are starting their careers. We also support various measures implemented by the government, if they do not interfere with provincial jurisdiction. The Bloc Québécois also supports extending virtual training options, such as those offered during the COVID19 pandemic, as well as a loan program for students, if they are carried out according to provincial jurisdiction.

- VI. Question : The financial burden of pilot training is a major barrier to entry into the profession. Would you support federal funding, grants, or loan programs to make pilot training more affordable? If so, what specific measures would you advocate for?

Answer: The Bloc Québécois supports a plan to establish financing programs for training future airline pilots, as well as a loan program for students, if they are carried out according to provincial standards. We also support expanding virtual training options.

- VII. Question : Regional and remote communities are particularly affected by pilot staffing issues, resulting in reduced air service. What role should the federal government play in ensuring sustainable air connectivity for these remote communities? What responsibility do airlines operating in the North have in ensuring they have appropriate numbers of pilots to meet air service demands.

Answer: The Bloc Québécois requires that the federal government support all Québécois initiatives regarding transportation to free rural areas from constraints, specifically by establishing or reestablishing rail service, improving availability of air travel, diversifying professions at regional airports, and dealing with Air Canada's anti-competitive practices. We wish to eliminate luxury tax on aircraft, which will encourage an increase in profitability and availability of charter flights. Additionally, we want the federal government to end security tax in regional airports.

- VIII. Question : How would you work with industry stakeholders, including ALPA Canada, to develop a long-term strategy for increasing pilot supply while maintaining high training and safety standards?

Answer: The Bloc Québécois wishes to work alongside all participants to develop the best strategies possible for safety and transportation options offered, which will require better availability of pilots and technicians.

3. Free and Fair Collective Negotiations

- Question : Government interventions to end labour disputes in the federal sector have become common occurrences. This action has disincentivized and negatively altered employer commitment to bargain in good faith. Do you support free and fair collective bargaining?

Answer: Yes. The Bloc Québécois has always opposed the forced return to work of employees on strike. We have always voted against bills for forced return to work and have no intention of changing our stance.

Question : How would you ensure and encourage free and fair collective bargaining and the constructive settlement of a labour dispute or work stoppage (either by strike or lockout)?

Answer: The Bloc Québécois has always defended workers' right to strike. We have always advocated against strike breakers and have always opposed laws on forced return to work.