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Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

DEC 05 2011



Mr. Ron Poole  
Municipal Manager  
District of Kitimat  
270 City Centre  
Kitimat, British Columbia V8C 2H7

Dear Mr. Poole:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 29, 2011, concerning your request for the re-establishment of a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) office with CANPASS services at the Northwest Regional Airport, Terrace-Kitimat, British Columbia.

The CBSA regularly receives requests to provide new or enhanced services. Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether it is feasible to provide services within current resource levels, with decisions taking into account national security, service to the public, and human and financial resource requirements.

A review of all airports was performed by the CBSA, which included the assessment of resource allocations, volumes and risk factors at each location. The review concluded that existing resources were to be dedicated at high priority locations. With respect to the request to reinstate CANPASS services, an airport may seek a CANPASS Corporate Aircraft and CANPASS Private Aircraft program designation if it meets certain criteria.

As per CANPASS regulations, a designated CANPASS site cannot be located more than 100 kilometres from the nearest servicing office. I am advised that the Terrace-Kitimat Airport is 152 kilometres, or, a 2 hour 10 minute drive, from the nearest CBSA full-service office of Prince Rupert.

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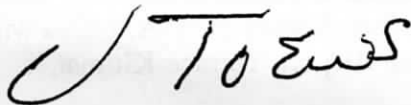
Northwest Regional Airport, Terrace-Kitimat, does not meet the criteria set out in the regulations. I am also informed that the actual demand does not support the need for a full-time CBSA presence in Kitimat. As such, the reinstatement of CANPASS services does not appear to be feasible, or to be in line with the Agency's responsibilities given current fiscal restraints.

Should you wish to discuss the merit of these considerations, I invite you to contact Chief Trevor Baird, by calling 867-667-3963 (collect), or by writing to:

Canada Border Services Agency  
Chief of Operations  
110-300 Main Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,



Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

