



January 21, 2022

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY
MLA, FRAME LAKE

Oral Question 871-19(2) Cold Weather Testing

This letter is in follow-up to the question raised on December 7, 2021, regarding Cold Weather Testing (CWT) at the Yellowknife Airport (YZF), where I committed to provide an answer on whether there are existing requirements or criteria for using the Yellowknife Airport.

Transport Canada assumes the role of the regulator and is responsible for setting the standards or requirements for airworthiness and operation of aircraft in Canada – including granting foreign operators the license to operate in Canada. This includes charter, schedule, cargo, leisure, military, and Cold Weather Testing operations.

The suitability of an airport to consider specific operations is based on the available infrastructure and support such as Navigational Aids, Runway Lengths, and Fire Coverage, in addition, in this case, cold weather. Transport Canada promotes safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally responsible transportation in Canada and, as a partner in the aviation industry, the GNWT supports these principles.

In the most recent CWT program with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), the manufacturer was required to take additional steps to be able to operate a military aircraft in Canada. It is important to note that the KAI aircraft undergoing testing is unarmed and there will be no live munition. The aircraft will effectively have the same low-risk profile as other aircrafts that have held NWT programs at the YZF.

Once YZF is selected as an approved testing program location, the airport works with all parties to discuss the program, support its implementation, and ensure regulatory compliance is met and all safety protocols are in place. For the larger more in-depth testing programs, this typically includes cooperation between Transport Canada, Department of National Defense, Nav Canada, YZF Management, YZF Operations, YZF Fire Services, the logistics operator supporting the program and the aircraft manufacturer.

.../2

-2-

The Yellowknife Airport is starting to receive recognition as one of the best locations for cold weather testing. The airport will continue to support northern businesses and economy through its support of Cold Weather Testing and hopes to attract other parties that are interested in taking advantage of YZF's cold weather, infrastructure, operations, and business partners.

Thank you.



Diane Archie
Minister, Infrastructure

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs