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Airlines applaud Conservative pledge to eliminate Air Security Tax

The promise by Conservative leader Stephen Harper to eliminate the Air Travellers' Security Charge is a welcome commitment to the health of the air travel industry and the tourism sector that relies on it, says the President of the Air Transport Association of Canada.

“This is the first political party to recognize that the security tax unfairly targeted airline passengers while leaving other modes of transport, and other parts of the economy untaxed. Not only is this unfair, it was also a huge cost to impose on an industry struggling with the impacts of September 11, foreign wars and SARS.”

Mr. Mackay said there were more than just airline jobs at stake. “Tens of thousands of jobs in Canada rely on a competitive airline sector,” said Mr. Mackay. “Government policies which add cost to travel don't just hurt the airline sector, they cost jobs throughout the hospitality and travel sectors.”

“The entire industry will be encouraged by this commitment by Mr. Harper, and by the possibility of fairer, more competitive, taxes applied to our industry.”

The Air Transport Association of Canada is the leading aviation organization in Canada, representing commercial aviation across the country. With over 300 members, the Association represents virtually all scheduled carriers as well as flight schools, regional aviation organizations and manufacturers.

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