

October 14, 2019

Jim Quick
President and CEO
Aerospace Industries Association of Canada
255 Albert Street, Suite 703
Ottawa, ON K1P 6A9

Dear Jim,

Thank you for writing to Jagmeet Singh, the Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party.

New Democrats recognize that Canada's aerospace industry is an important economic driver at the cutting edge of global innovation which supports thousands of good jobs. Canadian aerospace manufacturing is ranked among the highest in the world in terms of total manufacturing GDP. It is an important innovator and the number one investor in R&D across all manufacturing industries, spending more than \$1.8 billion a year. An NDP government will support the growth of the aerospace industry, starting with working with industry and workers to develop a National Aerospace Strategy.

The National Aerospace Strategy will have the mandate to help small-and-medium-sized aerospace companies increase capacity in the supply chain, adopt new technologies and scale-up to compete globally. Our plan will help Canadian aerospace companies of all sizes commercialize new technologies, strengthen competitiveness and train workers for good jobs in the sector. It will also help position the sector to reap the benefits of clean technology development so we can become a world leader in clean aviation.

Having access to highly-skilled workers is essential for the long-term success of Canada's aerospace industry. An NDP government will invest in education and skills training so that workers have the opportunities to gain the skills they need to succeed, and employers have access to the skilled workers they need to grow and expand their business. We will work with the provinces and territories to ensure Canadians have access to education and training throughout their professional lives, including proactive training and retraining. Our vision is one where training opportunities are flexible enough to work with people's busy lives, and significant enough to really improve job prospects.

To achieve this, we will change EI rules to allow workers who quit their job to go to school qualify for EI benefits. We will expand options for workers in designated sectors and regions to take EI-funded training in advance of losing a job, and we will require employers to spend at least 1 percent of payroll on training for their employees annually.

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Singh

We will work closely with the provinces to establish national training priorities and create a new Workers Development and Opportunities Fund to expand training options beyond people who qualify for EI.

An NDP government will also make post-secondary education more affordable so that the cost is not a barrier to any Canadian receiving the education they want. We will work to boost the number of people entering the skilled trades, particularly from under-represented groups.

Beyond skills training and targeted initiatives to support the aerospace industry, the federal government could be doing so much more to support the growth of Canadian aerospace businesses of all sizes. An NDP government will give Export Development Canada a stronger mandate to recruit and retain investment for export-focused manufacturers here in Canada. We will strengthen and modernize the *Investment Canada Act* to protect Canadian jobs and prevent loopholes that allow more takeovers of Canadian companies by foreign investors without a national security review. We will listen to our industry partners and scrap the failed *Invest in Canada* agency and create iCanada, a one-stop shop inside the federal government to help attract investors to Canada. Its mandate will include championing Canadian industry on the international stage.

An NDP government will also take measure to grow the domestic market for Canadian manufactured goods, starting with reviewing the federal procurement system to ensure that, wherever possible, processes are designed to encourage Canadian bidders. We have heard loud and clear that the government can, and should be, a procurer for Canadian goods and services, particularly made-in Canada innovations.

New Democrats have always believed in the role government regulation must play in keeping Canadians safe and protected while ensuring that the high standards that make Canada a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family are met. Regulations also play an important role when it comes to competition and innovation in our economy. An NDP government is committed to making the investments necessary so that our regulations and legislation works in the best interest of all Canadians.

To find our plan please see our platform, [A New Deal for People](#), and specifically the section entitled Boosting Aerospace Innovation.

Again, thank you for getting in touch.

Best regards,

Canada's NDP

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