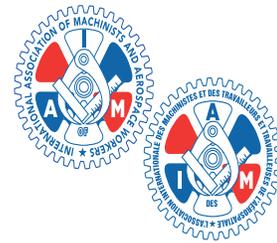


**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS**
**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES MACHINISTES
ET DES TRAVAILLEURS ET TRAVAILLEUSES
DE L'AÉROSPATIALE**



Office of the Canadian General Vice-President • Bureau du Vice-président général canadien

IAMAW Canada, 18 Wynford Drive, #310, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3S2

TEL: 416.386.1789 • FAX: 416.386.0210 • info@iamaw.ca • [IAMAWCanada](https://twitter.com/IAMAWCanada) [@IAMAWCanada](https://www.facebook.com/IAMAWCanada)

October 14, 2020

Honourable Navdeep Bains - MP
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario.
Canada
K1A 0A6

Re: Aerospace Strategy for Canada

Minister Bains,

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) would like to take this opportunity to focus attention once again on the need for a national aerospace strategy

The IAMAW, as a strong advocate for working people represents over 50,000 members across Canada, of which 22,000 work in the aviation and aerospace sector. We represent workers all across the industry from aircraft assembly, aircraft overhaul and repair, to aircraft parts manufacturing.

Many of the jobs in this sector are under severe threat, for example; our IAM members at Arnprior Aerospace. The Arnprior site has been home to aerospace manufacturing since 1954, and without immediate support from all levels of government, this renowned seventy (70) year old aerospace world leader may be lost, and with it over 200 highly skilled and well-paid jobs, in an industry that Canada is known for and sought after.

Prior to this pandemic, the aerospace industry in Canada contributed \$28 billion to the gross domestic product, an amount larger than the federal budget in 2019. The industry is also larger than the auto industry, both in terms of its contribution to the economy and employment. The auto industry employed 123,395 people whereas the aerospace sector employed 208,000. Canada relies more on aerospace for employment than our competitors, making this industry an important one for the Canadian economy.

Aerospace also drives innovation forward by having multiple spill-over effects in other industries through transfer of knowledge to other sectors, including several federal departments, such as, National Defense, Environment and Climate Change, Fisheries and Oceans, Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Natural Resources, Transport, Public Safety, Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

We know that jobs are a priority for your government.

Aerospace is a producer of many high-tech jobs that provide family-supporting incomes across the country, from Vancouver Island to the Maritime Provinces.

- On average, for every dollar that government invests in R&D, the private sector invests between \$2 to \$6.
- Over 200,000 Canadians work in this sector; these are good-paying middle class jobs.

Looming Skills Shortage

Prior to the 2020 pandemic crisis, we were looking at a sector that keeps those jobs in Canada: for example:

- Canada faces a looming skilled labour shortage, which will be at its worst in the next five years. Shortages are both due to massive retirements, where 41% of the aerospace workforce will be eligible to retire, leaving some 55,000 job openings—a staggering third of the existing workforce.
- Canada will have a difficult time replacing those who have retired, as well as recruiting new workers to meet future needs.
- Without a sufficient workforce, the industry will simply not be able to exist.

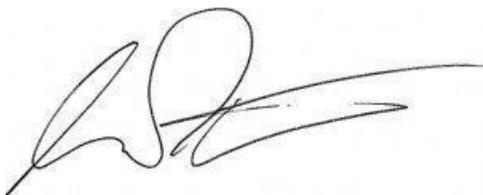
While our members depend on jobs in the industry, the consequences of neglecting issues the industry faces will have broader socio-economic repercussions.

Preserving and enhancing the aerospace sector is a matter of very great importance to our countries economy and to all working people.

We urge you to work to ensure that a National Aerospace Strategy is a significant part of this government's mandate. We ask that you support and advance this sector moving forward.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and assistance in this regard.

Yours Truly,



Stan Pickthall
GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT

SP/jc

Cc: Hon. Anita Anand MP - Minister of Public Services and Procurement
Erin O'Toole - Leader of the Official Opposition
Jagmeet Singh MP – NDP Leader
Brian Masse MP – NDP Critic for Innovation-Science and Industry
Cheryl Gallant MP Renfrew-Nippissing-Pembroke