

Template Resolution on Airport Privatization

Whereas in a country as vast and sparsely populated as Canada, safe and efficient air transportation is essential to connecting families and communities and to continued economic prosperity;

Whereas Canada's airports are vital assets that contribute to the quality of life and economic growth in the cities, communities and regions they serve;

Whereas media reports indicate that the Government of Canada is actively considering selling Canada's airports to for-profit entities to achieve a one-time financial windfall;

Whereas the international experience in airport privatization has often resulted in higher fees and reduced services for travellers and airlines as a result of efforts to maximize return on investment;

Whereas such outcomes would negatively affect communities of all sizes across Canada by making air travel more expensive and reducing service;

Whereas the last decade has seen a massive increase in the number of Canadians using air travel to connect with loved ones, enjoy well deserved vacations and explore the country, or help create jobs;

Whereas any increase in fees on air travel resulting from the privatization of airports would constitute an unfair tax on Canada's middle class;

Whereas divestiture of airports to local not-for-profit authorities in 1994, led to massive user-financed investments in airport infrastructure which have given Canada an enviable network of world class airports;

Whereas the physical infrastructure of airports has been modernized, the governance system under which they operate has not kept up with the times and is now in urgent need of repair;

Whereas that situation would only be exacerbated in a privatized for-profit system;

Be it resolved that the *municipality of Anytown* calls on the Government of Canada to renounce its push for the for-profit privatization of Canada's airports and clear the way for needed improvements to the current airport governance and financing system; and

Be it further resolved that the *municipality of Anytown* urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) bring this matter forward for emergency debate at the next meeting of its National Board of Directors.