



DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL
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July 12, 2013

“OPEN LETTER”

Calin Rovinescu
President & CEO
Air Canada Centre
P.O. Box 14000, Station Airport
Dorval, QC
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Dear Mr. Rovinescu,

As more details emerge following Asiana flight 214’s tragic crash in San Francisco on Saturday July 6th, the spotlight is now trained on the rapid actions taken by the flight attendants, which were crucial to the successful evacuation and survival of so many passengers despite horrific conditions. The world press is unhesitatingly naming these cabin crew members as heroes. We strongly agree.

It has been reported that Asiana 214 had a ratio of one flight attendant per 24 passengers when it crashed – two passengers died out of 307 individuals on board. And we all remember that Air France 358, which crashed in Toronto Pearson on August 2nd 2005, successfully evacuated all passengers safely – all 309 individuals survived – with a ratio of 1 flight attendant per 35 passengers.

At Air Canada we have a ratio of 1 flight attendant per 40 passengers – a higher safety standard than most other countries, and this is something we are proud of. In light of recent airline accidents, we would respectfully ask Air Canada to maintain their high safety standards, and withdraw your request for an exemption to the 1:40 ratio with Transport Canada. Likewise, we would also ask that you reconsider your recently announced reduction in cabin crew on board Air Canada’s wide-body fleet, which includes B-777s, the same aircraft involved in the Asiana accident. It is now more imperative than ever that we maintain an adequate number of trained safety and security professionals on-board Air Canada flights, ready to deal with the unexpected emergencies that can arise at any moment.

As we have seen over the past few days, when an emergency happens, every available cabin crew member can – and will – save lives. We ask you to make the responsible choice and uphold the high safety standards Canadians expect, and are proud of.

Yours truly,



President, Air Canada Component of CUPE

cc: Air Canada Component Executive
Air Canada Component Membership
Terri Elliott, Component Staff Rep – CUPE National
Klaus Goersch, Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer – Air Canada
Stephen Knowles, Sr. Director IFS bases – Air Canada
Scott Morey, VP Labour Relations – Air Canada

MC/lr