

November 2, 2010

Via fax: 613-941-6900 & email: Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to comment on the recent tension between the Canadian Government and the United Arab Emirates. It is our understanding that the source of this dispute is the pressure by UAE to significantly increase their air service between Dubai and points in Canada. Air Canada is opposed to such a move.

We recognize that there is relatively little passenger traffic directly between Canadian cities and Dubai and that this dispute is mainly about carrying connecting passengers beyond Dubai. Allowing UAE carriers to carve out significant connection traffic from Air Canada would undermine a significant portion of Air Canada's international business and affect jobs here in Canada.

Air Canada has faced tremendous competitive pressure since with privatization and deregulation a number of years back. Our members have made major sacrifices to keep this airline not only running, but profitable. Air Canada was recently named the best airline in North America. We believe it is the employees who can claim significant credit for this achievement. We do not want to see all this effort undermined by an airline that faces none of the same competitive pressures nor provides the same kind of employee rights and benefits as Air Canada.

Therefore we support your position on this matter. We need to maintain quality air service in Canada and cannot allow this to be undermined for short term gain by private foreign companies.

Sincerely,



Ken Lewenza
National President
CAW-Canada



Dave Ritchie
General Vice-President
IAM&AW



Paul Moist
National President
CUPE

c.c. Hon. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Opposition (fax 613-992-5880 (Ignatieff.M@parl.gc.ca)
Hon. Jack Layton, Leader, NDP (fax 613-995-4565 Layton.J@parl.gc.ca)
Gilles Duceppe, Leader, Bloc Quebecois (fax 613-954-2121 Duceppe.G@parl.gc.ca)
Mr. Calin Rovinescu, President & CEO, Air Canada