

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

**MAR 28 2019**

The Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 21, 2018, regarding a motion adopted by York Regional Council regarding the closure of the control tower at Buttonville Airport. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

As you may be aware, NAV CANADA officially closed the Buttonville tower and contract weather office on January 3, 2019. Buttonville Airport is still served by the Limited Weather Information System, which is already on site. The airport also has 24-7 access to weather information from nearby airports.

Please note that NAV CANADA is the organization responsible for the proposal to close the control tower and decommission the contract weather office at the airport. Transport Canada is responsible for conducting oversight and surveillance to ensure that stakeholders are in compliance with the Canadian Aviation Regulations.

NAV CANADA uses criteria, such as the number of take offs and landings at an airport per year, to determine a required level of service. For Buttonville Municipal Airport, the data in the study indicated that the number of aircraft movements is well below NAV CANADA's criteria to provide tower control services. Furthermore, Brampton-Caledon Airport and Burlington Executive Airpark Airport both operate safely in the same vicinity as Toronto Pearson International Airport without control towers. I should also note that Brampton-Caledon Airport has significantly more aircraft movements per year than Buttonville Municipal Airport.

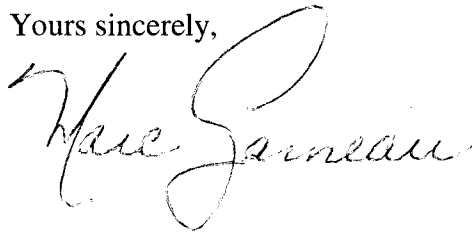
Controlled airspace, which is airspace that imposes higher weather minimums and exists in the immediate vicinity of busier airports, is also in place 2500 feet above Buttonville Municipal Airport.

NAV CANADA has informed me that it is considering the information received during recent consultations, and is engaging in a broader assessment of how services are provided throughout the country, including in northern and rural sites. Consideration of these matters will take time, and there will be no change to the closure of the NAV CANADA tower or to the manner in which current services are provided at Buttonville Municipal Airport until that work has been completed and only if the results indicate that a change should occur. For any further questions or concerns regarding this issue, I would encourage you to contact NAV CANADA directly at [service@navcanada.ca](mailto:service@navcanada.ca).

**Canada**

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marc Garneau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely,".

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport