

Minister
of National Defence



Ministre
de la Défense nationale

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His Worship Craig Copeland
Mayor of the City of Cold Lake
5513-48 Avenue
Cold Lake AB T9M 1A1
aserba@coldlake.com

*cc'd Mayor, Council
& CAO*
CITY OF COLD LAKE

Dear Mayor Copeland:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 13, 2024, regarding Portage College's Aerospace Campus project.

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) intends to contract out basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineer courses over the next several years, starting in late 2025, to augment the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering's (CFSATE) training capacity and meet the Chief of the Defence Staff's goal of increasing the total effective strength of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) by 2030.

Portage College would be considered as an opportunity for out-sourced training once they get Transport Canada approval. Given the proximity to 4 Wing Cold Lake, it would be greatly beneficial for the RCAF to collaborate with Portage College as an approved training organization offering Aircraft Maintenance Engineer programs and any other specialized training such as advanced maintenance techniques and procedures.

A meeting between representatives of Portage College and the Department of National Defence (DND) / CAF took place on November 12, 2024, to discuss Portage College's interest in partnering with the CAF. Departmental officials outlined the process for recognition under the CAF Education-Experience-Equivalency program, which identifies civilian post-secondary programs that satisfy the training needs of CAF occupations for which there are equivalent jobs in the civilian sector.

Portage College is strongly encouraged to submit their aircraft maintenance engineering programs for recognition under the CAF Education-Experience-Equivalency program once they have achieved accreditation by Transport Canada. The RCAF commits to supporting Portage College's application provided that the program curriculum is at least a 70% equivalency to the programs at the CFSATE.

Furthermore, the RCAF Air Attractions Team, which travels to colleges offering Aircraft Maintenance Engineer programs, among others, for recruiting and outreach purposes, will include Portage College as a future recruiting opportunity.

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The RCAF is increasingly interested in partnership opportunities with industry and academia, and welcomes the opportunity to partner with Portage College in recruiting and training opportunities.

I trust that this information is helpful and thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Blair', is positioned above the printed name.

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.
Minister of National Defence