

Dear Colleagues

You are receiving this message because we are at a critical time in our careers, our profession is under attack, our association is under attack and as an end result our livelihood is under attack.

Many of you are looking toward our association and its leaders for action and direction on what to do. Unfortunately, and for very valid reasons that will not happen. The Government and the Corporation have largely handcuffed our leaders. Our MEC Chair Jean-Marc Belanger and our President Paul Strachan, giants in defending your rights, are having their careers threatened.

You attack one of us you attack us all.

Our only way forward is via the grassroots movement and that is what we represent. This message is from you, the Air Canada pilot, and is for you the Air Canada pilot.

Unprecedented government intervention into labour issues has greatly distorted the bargaining process and has effectively removed any incentive the corporation may have had to negotiate in good faith. The government has essentially handed the corporation an insurance policy against industrial action. The corporation has used that perceived insurance in earnest, trampling on our profession, and our very being, with impunity.

What the corporation will need to be made aware of is that it has no such insurance policy. The government and the corporation have only symbolically removed our leverage; they possess a false sense of security, an illusion of labour peace.

We hold all the leverage, we have all the power. That power rests in our skills as aviators, professional airline pilots. Without us there is no Air Canada, there are no departures and there is no revenue. If we stand united, protect each other there is no danger to our pensions, to our scope, to our profession.

Long after this faction of corporate raiders have left with their millions, we will still be here, as we have for the past seventy five years but the question is what will be left?

That's for us to decide. We must take it upon ourselves to fight back, in doing so our Association will be there to defend us.

**Mission statement:** To negotiate a collective agreement outside of arbitration that is beneficial to both our association and the corporation as is our right under the Canadian Charter. The corporation must return to the table and bargain in good faith. All charges and accusations against ACPA members and its leaders be dropped and letters of reprimand removed from the record.

Standby for new ATIS message and be prepared to act. Time sensitive information to follow.

In solidarity,

The 97<sup>2</sup> (97 “squared,” or 97% strike vote turnout x 97% favoring strike)

**WE ARE AIR CANADA**