

## EDITED HANSARD - February 22, 2007

### Aviation Safety

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**Mr. Mario Laframboise (Argenteuil—Papineau—Mirabel, BQ):** 

Mr. Speaker, Transport Canada is attempting to divest itself of one of its most important responsibilities, monitoring aircraft maintenance and the reliability of airline pilots, two factors that form the basis for aviation safety in Canada.

How can the [Minister of Transport](#) be so irresponsible as to make a decision that will reduce aviation safety to occasional random checks?

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**Hon. Lawrence Cannon (Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, CPC):**  

Mr. Speaker, I want to reassure my hon. colleague and the members of this House that this claim is completely inaccurate and mistaken. It is not true.

We are maintaining the required level of service and inspection. We are also adding a safety factor in the form of a security management system. The member knows this. Yesterday, we were able to answer questions about this. Our goal is the safety of Canadians who use the airways.

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**Mr. Mario Laframboise (Argenteuil—Papineau—Mirabel, BQ):** 

Mr. Speaker, Merlin Preuss, a senior official with Transport Canada, contacted Mr. Holbrook, the chair of the Canadian Federal Pilots Association, and threatened him—I repeat, threatened him—with problems if the check pilots appeared before the parliamentary committee to denounce Transport Canada's plan.

How can the [Minister of Transport](#) be complicit in such blackmail for the sole purpose of reducing aviation safety by affecting both the thoroughness and the independence of safety inspections?

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**Hon. Lawrence Cannon (Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, CPC):**  

Mr. Speaker, raising his voice does not make my hon. colleague right. I simply want to say that his claims are unfounded. We are continuing to protect the safety of people who use the airways every day. Not only are we continuing to do so, but we are doing it better.

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