

*Charlie Angus*

Member of Parliament / député  
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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

The Honourable Kenney  
Minister of National Defence  
National Defence Headquarters  
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K2

April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

**RE: Cadet Glider Program**

Minister Kenney,

As you know the Cadet Glider Program encourages leadership and discipline. However, there are serious concerns whether or not the Cadet Glider program will continue to operate in Northern Ontario.

The gliding center in Thunder Bay has already been closed as a result of a lack of qualified staff. I have heard concerns that the gliding centers in Iroquois Falls and North Bay may be closed for similar reasons. It is my understanding that this is despite the fact that Iroquois Falls and Timmins both made the investments in gliders and tow planes for the program. This could result in Northern Ontario cadets only being able to access the glider program by travelling to Southern Ontario.

Rural and remote communities can provide unique difficulties in recruiting volunteers and staff. If these programs are at risk, then, flexible solutions should be sought in order to ensure that the glider programs stay open and that Northern Ontario cadets maintain access to the same opportunities as those in the South. Here are some suggestions

- (1) Investigate how civilian instructors could be utilized at both at a squadron and a gliding centre.
- (2) Investigate the possibility of creating more flexible rules around the use of civilian volunteers.
- (3) Investigate the possibility for rural and remote regions to have a larger roster of potential staff to schedule so that there are more potential instructors available for every day of flights.
- (4) Investigate whether increased support is required for the gliding program in Northern Ontario to, for example, recruit and train staff.

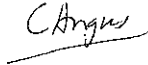
The issue of flexibility for the north is not about compromising safety but making sure that our northern youth are not left out because of rigid bureaucratic interpretations. Those involved in the cadet glider program in Northern Ontario are dedicated to the program and the cadets. They

want to ensure the program has a long and healthy future because the cadet program plays a huge role in building leadership opportunities for Canadian youth.

The glider program engages young cadets. I can't tell you how much it means to the cadets to have this goal to build towards, which is why I am very concerned about any potential cuts to the glider program in Northern Ontario. We must ensure that Northern Ontario cadets have access to the same opportunities as those in the South.

Please update me on what is being considered for the glider program in 2015 and beyond. This government needs to make its commitment to this program clear. If the program is at risk then solutions should be found that allow the cadet glider program to continue to effectively operate in Northern Ontario. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charlie Angus  
MP Timmins-James Bay