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# CASOP Conference Statement on Laser Strikes

VANCOUVER, BC - During the business of the CASOP Conference in Vancouver, BC May 2-4, 2016, the members adopted the following Conference statement:

*In recent years, Canada, and the U.S. have recorded increasing instances of laser exposures that have been disruptive to flight operations.* *. The effects of these occurrences to flight crews have ranged from startle to glare and, in some instances, flash blindness, afterimage or even temporary eye injury. As a result, some States have already enacted legislation that makes laser strikes on aircraft a criminal offence.* *Currently, there are no Canadian laws prohibiting possession of a laser whose output is greater than 5 Milliwatts; these lasers pose a risk to eye safety for even incidental exposure.*

*The Canadian and the world's airline industries maintain that wilfully or knowingly pointing a laser at an aircraft in flight should be prosecuted as an indictable offense. New Canadian legislation to create such a criminal statute is needed now to curb this trend,* and *that such dangerous actions should be addressed by federal statute and not be adjudicated solely by the Aeronautics Act or the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs)*

*As stated, a number of other countries including the U.S. have already enacted more robust laws making pointing a laser at an aircraft a criminal offense and limiting the maximum allowable power of lasers in one's possession without a permit.*

*The CASOP members urge the federal government to expeditiously enact laser legislation aimed at significantly reducing the threat of laser strikes on aircraft and thus, enhance the safety and security of all commercial airline passengers and crewmembers.*

*The CASOP members request that the NAV CANADA, Vice-President, Safety and Quality continue to raise the issue at the proper levels of Government and industry.*

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