

Interest Group Perspective: Airlines

Airlines are in the business of flying large numbers of passengers to various points around the world. Canada's airline industry generates billions of dollars of revenue each year and flies millions of passengers around the world (Air Canada and WestJet alone flew 72 million passengers to destinations around the world in 2017).

Use the websites below to gather information that will help you to research and defend a position for the town hall meeting on the question of whether the federal government should limit exposure to cosmic radiation on long-distance flights. Below are some questions to help guide your research.

- What economic impact might limits on flight crew flying hours have on airlines?
 - *Will more employees be needed to cover flights?*
- What impact might potential increased health risks for flight crews have on airlines?
 - *Will there be increased health care costs for employees?*
 - *Will there be litigation costs if employees sue for damages?*
- What economic impact might limits on passenger flight hours have on airlines?
 - *Will there be less revenue from passengers whose flying time is limited?*
- What impact might there be on the airline industry if the public perceives long-distance flight as being hazardous due to radiation exposure?
 - *Will there be fewer people traveling by air due to public perceptions?*

Web links

(Retrieved Aug. 1, 2019)

- **Exposure to cosmic radiation of British Airways flying crew on ultralonghaul routes – Occupational and Environmental Medicine, U.S. National Library of Medicine**
Information on cosmic radiation exposure during long-distance flight, along with ways to monitor exposure.
- **Galactic radiation exposure during commercial flights: Is there a risk? – Canadian Medical Association Journal, U.S. National Library of Medicine**
Examining the different types of galactic radiation and the risks of exposure during commercial flights.
- **Cosmic Radiation Exposure and Air Travel – Health Canada, Government of Canada**
Potential effects of exposure to cosmic radiation from long-distance flights.
- **Radiation: Quantities and Units of Ionizing Radiation – Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety**
Information on the measurement of and effects of exposure to ionizing radiation.
- **Measures for Managing Exposure to Cosmic Radiation of Employees Working on Board Aircraft – Transport Canada, Government of Canada**
This Commercial and Business Aviation Advisory Circular (CBAAC) recommends that air operators develop a program for managing the cosmic radiation exposure of employees who work on board aircraft.