

President's Message

Flight & Duty Time Limits: Where-to, From Here?

The recent announcement by Transport Canada that they intend to proceed with the *Gazette I* publication of new Flight & Duty Time Limit Regulations – for *all* commercial passenger-carrying operations (CAR 703, 704, 705), came as a bit of a surprise to many. Some even thought that this was a *positive* development. I suppose if you believe that bad news, today, is worse than bad news tomorrow - then that would be true. When the new draft regulations are published in the Spring of 2017 - as far as helicopter operators are concerned, I expect to see very few changes from the September 2014 *Notice of Proposed Amendment* (NPA). We will have 60 days to comment on the draft regulations, and then - when the new, final version of the regulations are published in *Canada Gazette II* a few months later, we will have four more years to consider what their effect will be when they come in to force. The reality is, that once we have made our *Gazette I* written submission in the Spring of 2017, our window of opportunity to comment on the draft regulations, will close. Your association is collaborating with other like-minded associations to determine our best strategy going forward. If you are not a member of HAC - then *you should be*. We should NOT be sitting idly-by. The Spring of 2017 will be our last opportunity to influence the course of these regulations before they come in to law.