

Level of Service

Terms of Reference

Review of Airspace Requirements
in the Boreal Region, Northeast of
Cold Lake, Alberta

NAV CANADA
Level of Service
151 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3

March 2026

Table of Contents

1. Purpose	1
2. Scope of Study	1
3. Background.....	1
4. Methodology.....	1
5. Human Resources	2
6. Work Management Plan	2
7. Materiality of the changes.....	3
8. Finance Resources.....	3
9. Consultations.....	3
10.Safety Management Plan	4
11.Authority	4

1. Purpose

The objective of this Terms of Reference is to initiate an Aeronautical Study (the “Study”) to review the airspace requirements to the northeast of the Cold Lake Airport (CYOD).

2. Scope of Study

The Study will assess the airspace requirements in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, southern Northwest Territories and Nunavut following the Department of National Defence (DND) advising of a requirement for military training airspace in the vicinity of Cold Lake, Alberta.

3. Background

The Cold Lake Military Terminal Control Area (MTCA), which surrounds the Cold Lake/Group Captain R.W McNair Airport (CYOD) serves as the southwest corner of the DND proposed airspace, which is approximately 460 nautical miles (NM) by 380 NM, extending north from Cold Lake into the Northwest Territories, and east into Manitoba.

To modernize the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) air operational training infrastructure in preparation for a new multi-role fighter in Canada, DND has requested that NAV CANADA conduct an Aeronautical Study to assess the impacts of a proposed airspace complex capable of accommodating future training requirements.

4. Methodology

The Study will identify, assess, and analyze information gathered through data collection and user and stakeholder consultation. The Study will:

- 1) Confirm stakeholder requirements for the airspace under review,
- 2) Analyze the concerns and issues raised by the stakeholders,
- 3) Develop possible solutions and options,
- 4) Conduct a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment on issues, as required,
- 5) Present recommendations for Executive Management and Board of Directors approval,
- 6) Coordinate with the appropriate managers who would be involved with the technical and operational implementation of any proposed airspace change, and
- 7) Coordinate with Transport Canada.

A business case will be developed to validate the recommendations as needed.

5. Human Resources

The Study team will be multidisciplinary, with representation as required from crucial operational, technical and support areas.

The Study team will ensure that consultation with affected or interested stakeholders is sufficient before making recommendations to senior management.

The Study team will conduct a risk analysis and may call upon stakeholders to contribute to assessing some risk scenarios.

Team Leader: Manager, Level of Service Program and Development

Contributors:

- Manager, Level of Service,
- Specialist, Level of Service,
- Managers/Staff in YEG/YWG Flight Information Region,
- Aeronautical Information Management,
- NAV CANADA Technology Group,
- NAV CANADA Corporate Performance,
- NAV CANADA Stakeholder and Industry Relations and,
- Others as required.

6. Work Management Plan

Terms of Reference approval: May 2025

When conducting the Study*, the following will be undertaken:

- 1) Develop a Communication and Consultation Plan – Winter 2026
- 2) Study commencement – Winter 2026
- 3) Consultation – Spring 2026
- 4) Assess consultation input – Summer 2026
- 5) Conduct Issues Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment – Summer 2026
- 6) Finalize Aeronautical Study report – Fall 2026
- 7) Executive Management and Board of Directors approval – Fall 2026

If a change proposal is approved:

- 8) Issue a Notice of Proposal – Winter 2026
- 9) Circulate the concluded assessment to Transport Canada for safety review – Winter 2027

Following Transport Canada concurrence:

- 10) Coordinate implementation plan and dates with appropriate departments – TBD
- 11) Prepare the Aeronautical Information Management submission – TBD
- 12) Prepare and publish an Aeronautical Information Circular – TBD
- 13) Prepare and publish Notice –TBD
- 14) Implement – TBD
- 15) Monitoring / Post-Implementation Reviews – TBD

* Study timelines may be subject to adjustment.

7. Materiality of the changes

Some proposed airspace change options may represent a material change to a significant group of users. If this is the case, formal notifications per the Civil Air Navigation Services Commercialization Act will apply.

8. Finance Resources

Airspace design changes may generate an engineering support requirement. These requirements will be identified as the study progresses in support of initiating project planning for implementing engineering-related recommendations from the study.

9. Consultations

An appropriate consultation plan will be prepared. It will include formal stakeholder consultations to determine if any issues exist and what mitigations may be required if changes are recommended to airspace classification and structure.

Aviation organizations representing airports, general aviation, business aviation and others, as appropriate, will be consulted during the Study. A list of users and stakeholders consulted will be attached to the Study.

Should you have any questions or wish to provide input to the Study, you may do so by emailing studies.etudes@navcanada.ca or by writing to:

Courier/Civic Address	Mailing Address
NAV CANADA Level of Service 151 Slater Street Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3	NAV CANADA Level of Service PO Box 3411, Station T Ottawa, ON K1P 5L6

10. Safety Management Plan

NAV CANADA will prepare a project safety management plan that identifies implementation responsibilities resulting from the Study, including mitigation and monitoring actions to implement any service change.

11. Authority

This document has been issued under the authority of the Assistant Vice President, Stakeholder and Industry Relations.