

September 17, 2025

Response to Recent Claim Challenging the Saskatchewan Q400 Purchase

Conair is aware of recent media reports concerning the Saskatchewan government's purchase of Q400 (Dash 8-400) airtankers and multi-mission aircraft. While Conair cannot comment on specific legal matters before the court, certain statements made by a third party in the matter as reported by the media, are either false or misleading and misrepresent the true value of the aircraft Conair provides.

Conair is recognized globally as one of the most experienced and trusted providers of aerial firefighting aircraft and services for over 50 years. Governments and agencies in Canada and around the world depend on Conair to deliver safe, reliable, and highly specialized solutions that meet rigorous operational standards. Our aircraft are purpose-built and supported to ensure long-term effectiveness in protecting communities from the escalating threat of wildfires.

The insinuations made against Conair not only undermine the integrity of our company but also detract from the critical importance of providing governments with the best possible tools to protect the public. The costs associated with the delivery of state-of-the-art airtanker and multi-mission aircraft extend well beyond the base price of the airframe and conversion. Significant time and investment are required for the design, engineering and certification of these aircraft. Aircraft are equipped with advanced retardant delivery systems, avionics, integrated safety systems, and numerous other specialized modifications — elements essential for effective operation in some of the most challenging conditions in aviation. Acquisition decisions include not only tank capacity and range, but also total lifecycle and maintenance costs, the operating environment, reliability, parts availability, fuel consumption, existing fleet commonality and compatibility, in addition to numerous other factors. To suggest otherwise is both inaccurate and misleading.

Safety is also central to any discussion around a vital firefighting resource. Conair is the only company currently delivering large airtankers certified by Transport Canada. The aircraft are delivered with full warranty, comprehensive OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) support, no major maintenance required for the first 10 years, industry-leading training systems, and a proven record of global performance and safety.

Canada leads the world in airtanker certification and Transport Canada is the only airworthiness authority that specifically addresses the demanding conditions of aerial firefighting. These high standards are critical to ensuring safe and effective operations and as a result, the Q400 has an exceptional 20-year safety record with 26 aircraft currently deployed in firefighting missions around the world. This also provides our global partners the utmost confidence that they can safely operate Conair's aircraft in the harshest conditions.

Conair remains steadfast in its mission: to support governments and communities in their fight against wildfires. We will continue to carry out that mission with the highest levels of professionalism, safety, and integrity throughout the organization.
