

# Drone Pilot Association of Canada

[WWW.DRONEPILOTASSOCIATIONOFCANADA.COM](http://WWW.DRONEPILOTASSOCIATIONOFCANADA.COM)



## DPAC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1

2024

## OUR MISSION

To represent recreational and small commercial drone operators by promoting safety and a reasonable regulatory environment in Canada.

Here's a quick review of key events and accomplishments over the course of 2023. Quite a year!"

## January

### **Building a DPAC Safety Course.**

DPAC started planning the objectives, content, and technology platform for the Safety Course.

### **DPAC meets with NAV CANADA**

A member of the DPAC Steering Committee had direct discussions by 'phone with NAV CANADA's Director of RPAS Traffic Management in January. The offer for talks was extended by NAV CANADA after concerns had been expressed that recreational drone pilots were not benefiting as well as had been expected from the introduction of NAV DRONE, the app used by NAV CANADA to manage drones flying in Controlled Airspace.

There was a useful exchange of views and NAV CANADA was able to explain the basic principles they apply to drone management; essentially operation in VLOS only and, ideally, a distinct and deliberate separation of drones from airspace in use by manned aircraft. The DPAC representative expressed disappointment that implementation of these two principles was not based on objective assessment of the risks involved and adversely and unfairly impacted the drone community. The discussion concluded with agreement that DPAC could make suggestions that would improve arrangements for drone management without affecting aviation safety, but NAV CANADA'S stance was that the only acceptable level of risk was one predicated on zero incidents involving drones.

Several suggestions for improvements to NAV DRONE were subsequently submitted. They have never been acknowledged and have certainly not been implemented.



## February

### Discussion with NAV Drone Executives

Mike Hill met with NAV Drone leaders to raise concerns about variations in drone altitude restrictions between cities. For example, parts of Kingston require manual authorization even 10 feet off the ground in highly built-up areas."



## March

### Remote ID in Canada: DPAC's Position.

The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) has developed a crisp position on Remote ID in Canada. The Position Paper is now available on the DPAC website's Resources page, [Remote-ID-for-Drones-DPAC-Position-Paper-V1.4.pdf \(dronepilotassociationofcanada.com\)](https://www.dronepilotassociationofcanada.com/Remote-ID-for-Drones-DPAC-Position-Paper-V1.4.pdf)

### Here is the executive summary:

- The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) has developed a policy position on drone Remote ID that balances accountability and privacy. DPAC is an organization of recreational and small commercial drone pilots advocating for safe and responsible drone use in Canada.
- DPAC recognizes that Remote ID can enhance safety, security and accountability but also advises that Remote ID carries the risk of government over-reach for the drone community, potentially compromising reasonable freedom and privacy.
- As such, DPAC recommends:
  - Remote ID should be mandatory for drones over 25kg or drones over 250g performing higher risk operations such as flying beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).
  - Otherwise, Remote ID should be optional for drones under 25kg, including particularly micro drones less than 250g.
  - The Remote ID data packet be limited to the drone serial number and aircraft location coordinates. The control station/pilot location must not be transmitted, unless encrypted in such a way that only authorized law enforcement entities can determine that location.
- DPAC has also developed recommendations for associated enforcement processes, affordability, and implementation timeline considerations. DPAC suggests that it should be invited to Transport Canada policy forums and committees, such as CanaDAC, to ensure the interests of recreational and small commercial drone pilots are represented in Remote ID regulatory development discussions.

### DPAC Met with Transport Canada.

The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) steering committee met with Transport Canada in March with a full agenda of topics? Things went very well.

### Here are some agenda items discussed:

- Discussion on the AIM updates
- Discussion on the proposed new expanded regulations regarding.
  - o Low risk BVLOS flights
  - o RPAS Operator Certificate

# April

## Drone Insurance Review.

Based on popular demand, DPAC has engaged the insurance industry to develop a Canada-wide drone insurance program.

More awareness must be brought to their attention about the growing drone industry and its impact on Canadian businesses to get them onboarded.



**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

### FIND YOUR DRONE CATEGORY

YOU NEED A PILOT CERTIFICATE – BASIC OPERATIONS TO:

- Fly in uncontrolled airspace (where no air traffic control is provided)
- Fly **+30m** from bystanders

YOU NEED A PILOT CERTIFICATE – ADVANCED OPERATIONS TO:

- Fly in controlled airspace with air traffic control approval [navcanada.ca/rpas](http://navcanada.ca/rpas)
- Fly less than **30m** from bystanders

YOU NEED A SPECIAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS CERTIFICATE TO FLY:

- At an advertised event
- A drone over 25 kg
- Above 122 metres (400 feet)
- 122m+** (approximately a 30-storey building)
- 25kg+**

Canada.ca/drone-safety

Transport Canada

# June

## DPAC Safety Course on track to become a reality.

DPAC's safety course is moving forward, final review is in the works and will be available to drone pilots soon...

## DPAC Met with Transport Canada.

The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) steering committee met with Transport Canada in June with a full agenda of topics!

## Here are some agenda items discussed:

- Update on Aviation Radio Issue
- RPAS Exams Improvements
- New regulations Proposals

# July

## DPAC held our first Canada-wide "DPAC Fly Day."

"DPAC Fly Day" will occur each year on the closest Saturday to Canada Day - July 1st. This is intended to be a day when drone pilots of all ages and experiences can meet and exchange information and experience - and members of the public can learn about drones." Fun for everyone, with a video collage of a sampling:

[https://youtu.be/AGgzN\\_sYrko](https://youtu.be/AGgzN_sYrko)







# August

## DPAC follow up meeting with NAV CANADA

Discussions have continued throughout the year, with the Steering Committee member granted a lengthy interview in August with a consultant reviewing NAV CANADA's drone management arrangements. This proved to be a very constructive discussion, but no changes to NAV DRONE have resulted and an offer made in September to participate in beta testing of a major new iteration of the app has not come to pass.

# September

## Airline Pilots Association (ALPA).

The Airline Pilots Association represents 11,000 pilots at 20 air carriers in Canada. DPAC Steering Committee member Nick Seemel was invited to participate in a panel discussion at their annual safety meeting in Chicago. With flight scheduling issues preventing him from attending in person he sent a video presentation which was viewed during the panel discussing Canadian drone safety, regulations, and the future of drone operations.

Transport Canada, Advanced Air Mobility, and NAV CANADA were also panel members for this well attended panel discussion. The panel was well received and went into overtime with all the attendees' questions.

## DPAC's Feedback: 6 Key Issues With The New Canadian Drone Regulations Proposal.

The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) has prepared and submitted a Position Paper on the new Transport Canada proposed RPAS regulation changes, to be implemented in late 2024 and 2025 timeframes.

## The Drone Pilot Safety Course on track for implementation.

DPAC's new drone pilot safety course became available as of September 22. This has been a collaborative effort of the steering committee and has become a major accomplishment for our association, here is the link to the Safety Course: : [DPAC Safety Course - Drone Pilot Association of Canada](#)



## TRANSPORT CANADA'S DRONE STRATEGY

Integrating drones safely and securely in Canadian skies

*Drones have the potential to transform the way we 'fly', work, and live in Canada*

**DRONES ARE A GROWING INDUSTRY WORTH OVER \$6 BILLION.**

Source: Global Council on Drone Industry September 2020. <http://www.globalsurvey.com/2020/09/02/Global-Council-on-Drone-Industry-Report-2020/>

**DRONES HELP CANADIANS BY:**

- connecting communities as the transportation system reaches more people
- improving supply chains
- providing quality data to businesses
- creating new jobs and fueling economic growth

**DRONES ALSO PRESENT NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO:**

- develop agile regulations and standards for new aircraft, new operators and manufacturers entering the market, and creative uses for drones
- re-define airspace and air traffic management
- improve the ability of airports and critical infrastructure to prevent economic losses and keep the public safe
- build a social licence to operate drones by addressing privacy, safety, and urban use issues

**DRONES OR REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

RECREATIONAL USES • COMMERCIAL USES • NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES

**THERE ARE OVER 53K DRONES IN THE SKY AND 37K AIRCRAFT**

Source: Transport Canada Civil Aviation, October 2020.

### TRANSPORT CANADA'S DRONE PRIORITIES TO 2025

**SAFETY REGULATIONS THAT SUPPORT INNOVATION**

Technology trials at testing ranges

Pilot projects to test new uses and gain insight

Special flight authorizations for drone operations that benefit the public

Flexible and risk-based Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) rules that keep up with innovation

Working with stakeholders

**INTEGRATING DRONE TRAFFIC IN CANADIAN AIRSPACE**

Drone traffic management network

Digital infrastructure strategy that includes communication, navigation, and airspace surveillance systems

Drone traffic management trials

Tracking and remotely identifying drones

**DEVELOPING A NATIONAL DRONE SECURITY STRATEGY**

Understanding security and cybersecurity risks and developing strategies to manage them

Airport incident response protocols

Counter-drone technology trials

Security framework for detecting and removing unauthorized drones

**INNOVATION STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Research and development projects related to Canada's environment

Partnerships to nurture the Canadian drone ecosystem

International operational approvals on drone design and manufacturing to bring drones to market

Modern commercial licensing rules to support sector growth

**INCREASING PUBLIC TRUST IN DRONES**

Public perception research and action plans to address concerns

Inter-governmental coordination on urban drone operations

Working with communities, including with Indigenous groups

Partnerships with law enforcement to enforce safe drone practices

Communicating with Canadians



# October

## Drone Pilot Safety Course Qualifies for Recency.

The DPAC Safety Course was accepted by Transport Canada as meeting the 24-month recency requirements for RPAS pilots.

## DPAC Met with Transport Canada.

The Drone Pilot Association of Canada (DPAC) steering committee met with Transport Canada in October with a full agenda of topics!

## Here are some agenda items discussed:

- New regulations status update
- Aviation radio update
- DPAC Safety Course
- Latest AIM Document
- DJI Mini 4 Listing Issue
- Flying over National Parks



**Jean Lamoureux**  
Gatineau, Quebec

Jean is an Advanced drone pilot and Flight Reviewer who has been flying drones since 2017. He is a retired member of the federal public service, and his career has been mainly providing IT related services to Canadians. He mainly uses a DJI Phantom 4 Pro v2 and a Mini 4 Pro to do his commercial work, providing aerial photo and video shoots for local companies and private clients in the Outaouais regions.



# November

## DPAC Steering Committee back up to full strength.

DPAC has now enlisted a new member of the DPAC steering committee by the name of Jean Lamoureux replacing Steven Anderson, a founding member of DPAC. "Welcome Jean, and thank you, Steve!"

## DPAC Popup Shirt Sales (Merch Store).

Based on membership interest, DPAC launched its first ever merchandise sale such as T-shirts, Hoodies, and safety vests, after running for 3 weeks a quantity of 170 items sold.

Thank-You, everyone.

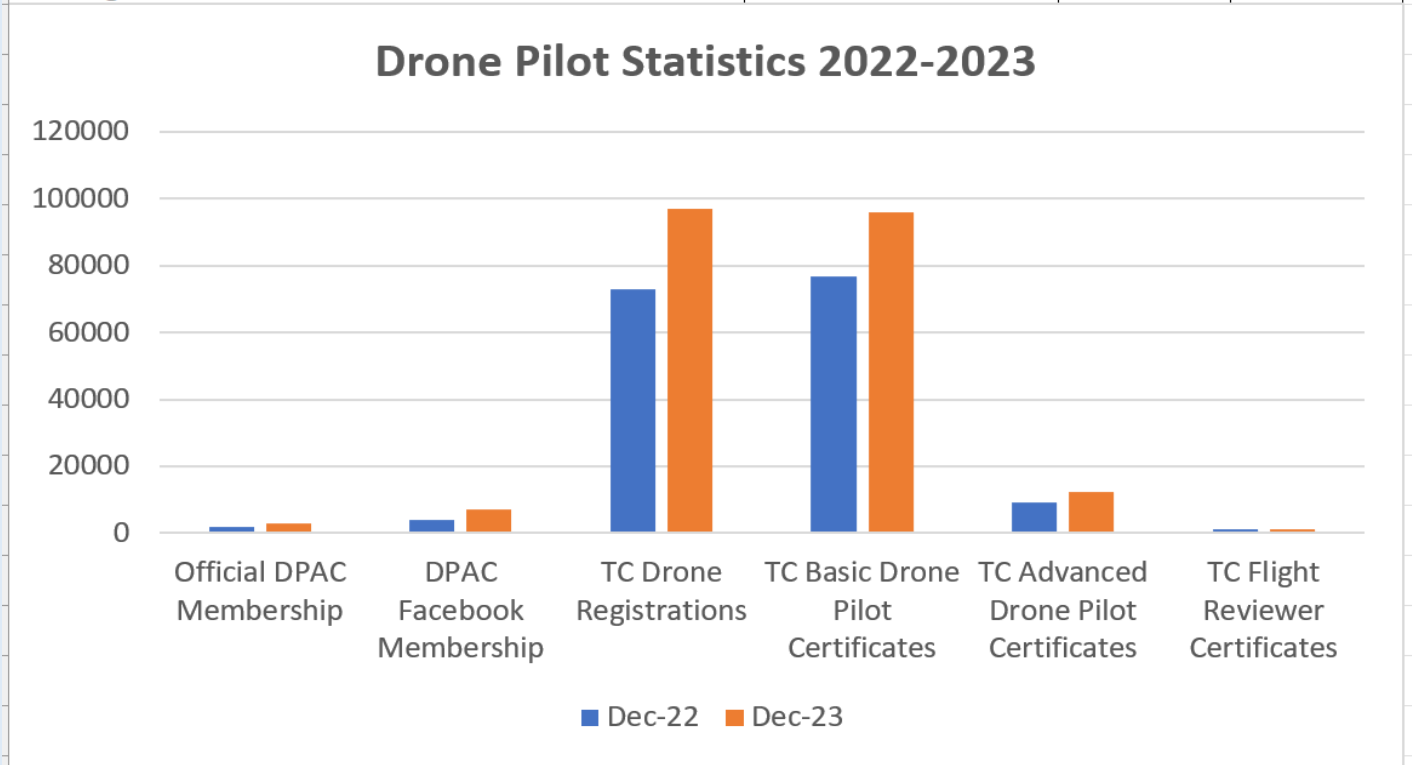


# December

Canadian Drone Pilots and Drones: The finals counts are in as of December 29.

Great news! The official counts are in for 2023 compared to 2022, What a Year!

Drone Pilot Statistics 2022-2023			
	Dec-22	Dec-23	% Growth
Official DPAC Membership	1952	2722	39.45%
DPAC Facebook Membership	3773	6884	82.45%
TC Drone Registrations	72850	96937	33.06%
TC Basic Drone Pilot Certificates	76711	95840	24.94%
TC Advanced Drone Pilot Certificates	9160	12254	33.78%
TC Flight Reviewer Certificates	982	991	0.92%



## Issues DPAC is looking into currently, more to follow!

Sub 250 grams drones are selling like hot cakes and are sharing the skies with other drones and aircraft more than ever. Free education and safety tutorials will go a long way to making the skies safer for everyone concerned.

Canadian drone pilots experience confusion between the approach adopted by DJI to safety management in shared airspace with Fly safe™ and the approach taken by NAV CANADA whose online app NAV DRONE is the authoritative instrument for drone management in Canada.

