



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Todd Gunther**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region**

---

**Date: January 31, 2017**  
**Subject: TSBC Interview of Daphne McCann**  
**NTSB Accident Number: ANC14FA068**

---

**On September 12, 2014, an interview of passenger Daphne McCann was conducted on behalf of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSBC).**

**Permission for use of the information garnered during the interview was granted to TSBC by Ms. McCann on October 17, 2014.**

### **Review of the interview revealed the following information:**

- The flight was a day excursion arranged by the other two passengers (Darrell Spencer and Marcene Nason) for the purpose of wildlife and outdoor photography, Ms. McCann was invited along as there was an empty seat available.
- McCann understood that the flight was through to Dead Horse, Alaska and return.
- McCann noted nothing unusual when boarding the aircraft at the commencement of the charter. She recalled a briefing by the pilot that included an emergency kit in the back of the cabin. The passengers were briefed that the canopy could be opened while in flight to facilitate photography. She did not recall a safety belt demo or discussion, but recalled that the rear seats were only equipped with lap belts.
- On boarding, McCann found the seat to be hard, describing it as "just metal" comparing it to the seat she had ridden in during an earlier charter of a DHC2 Beaver while in Whistler, BC, Canada. Once aboard the accident aircraft, she found her seat comfortable once seated. She was in the rear left passenger seat and was seated immediately aft of the pilot.
- All passengers wore headsets and were able to communicate clearly on intercom.

- On first take-off, pilot taxied to take off and completed run-up and checked instruments.
- Flew for 1.5-2 hours estimated, then landed in Bettles for bathroom break. Landing in Bettles all normal. Quite comfortable with the pilot. Quick break, and observed no fueling of the aircraft.
- Departed Bettles; and flew estimated 1 hour. A moose was observed at a lake. The pilot circled while photos were taken. McCann unable to estimate the aircrafts height agl at this time.
- Darrell offered Gravol shortly after circling over the moose and McCann accepted one. She observed Marcene Nason take one as well.
- Flight proceeded into mountain valley approx. 20 minutes later. Darrell Spencer asked the pilot if there would be any mountain goats or sheep.
- In the moments prior to the accident, McCann did not observe nor hear anything unusual. She stated that she did not observe or hear the pilot struggling (McCann reemphasized that she was wearing her headset and did not hear anything that would have indicated concern regarding Darrell Spencer.
- At the time of the accident, McCann felt the aircraft bank slightly and then drop as if "into an air pocket". She described it as "when it drops and you feel your tummy rise up" Immediately prior, the pilot was flying a relatively straight course. She estimated that the aircraft was within the valley at an estimated point halfway from the valley floor to the mountain tops.
- After the bank and dropping feeling, McCanns' next recollection was opening her eyes, looking at her sister and being unable to move.
- First responders were at the aircraft very quickly.
- McCann suffered broken vertebrae

|