

VIA Email < mintc@tc.gc.ca and marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca >

September 10, 2019

Minster of Transport
Transport Canada
330 Sparks St
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

RE: Pickering Airport Update

Please be advised that the above-noted matter was placed before Council at its meeting held on August 27, 2019, and the following resolution was passed:

Whereas the failure of the Montreal-Mirabel International Airport has suggested that a sound business case is important in airport planning; and

Whereas numerous studies and debates since the 1970s have failed to establish a business case that justifies the need for a new airport in the GTA; and

Whereas Pearson Airport will be able to accommodate the growing air travel needs to 2037, much longer than originally predicted; and

Whereas there are other airports in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, such as Hamilton International Airport, Region of Waterloo International Airport, and Toronto City Airport that can help accommodate further growth needs; and

Whereas High-speed Rail has become a preferred mode of regional transportation more viable and reliable than air travel; and

Whereas planning for a High-speed / High-frequency Rail corridor between Windsor and Quebec City is already underway; and

Whereas a High-speed Rail corridor, once built, could significantly reduce or eliminate the need for a new airport in Pickering; and

Whereas there are major environmental impacts with the proposed Pickering airport, such as loss of class 1 farmland and vital watersheds of the Oak Ridges Moraine; and

Whereas aircraft noise could significantly disrupt and diminish the quality of life for many residents of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville if the proposed Pickering airport is built; and

Whereas one of the most important duties of Council is to protect the quality of life in our community.

Therefore, be it resolved,

- 1) That Transport Canada be requested to reconsider the Pickering airport project if there is no clear business case to support it; and
- 2) That the federal and provincial governments be encouraged to consider investing in High-speed / High-frequency Rail services instead of a new airport in the GTA; and
- 3) That a copy of this Council resolution be forwarded to City of Pickering, City of Markham, Township of Uxbridge, York Region, Durham Region, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Transport Canada, Markham-Stouffville MP Jane Philpott, and Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell for their information.

Carried

Yours truly,



Samantha Blakeley, Senior Clerk's Coordinator
(905) 640-1910 x 2222

cc. City of Pickering
City of Markham
Township of Uxbridge
York Region
Durham Region
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Markham-Stouffville MP Jane Philpott
Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell