

December 8, 2015

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
Place de Ville, Tower C, 29th Floor
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau:

Thank you for your recent letter confirming the position of the federal government regarding the Tripartite Agreement as it pertains to the Porter Proposal to introduce jet aircraft at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

As you know the Proposal was first put forward in April 2013 by Porter Airlines, a tenant at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. PortsToronto's position on Porter's Proposal at the time, and throughout the multi-year process, has been that we would not consider any change of use to the airport until a determination was first made by the elected representatives of Toronto City Council. In the event of a positive decision by Council, PortsToronto would review the Proposal through the lens of our 10 point Do No Harm policy.

In April 2014, Toronto City Council requested that PortsToronto complete and submit three studies to inform future discussion and decision-making on the matter. Specifically, Council requested the completion of an Environmental Assessment, Preliminary Runway Design and Master Planning Exercise. In 2015, PortsToronto requested that Waterfront Toronto conduct a "peer review" of this Environmental Assessment in an effort to ensure a transparent and professional process. PortsToronto has spent the last year working on these studies and all are nearly complete. All of these studies were paid for by PortsToronto and no public funds were involved.

Your letter, which was received by PortsToronto on November 27, 2015 provided much-needed clarity regarding the federal government's position on the Porter Proposal. PortsToronto respects this decision and would like to confirm that the studies will not be finished given your position. PortsToronto will complete the technical work currently underway, but will not proceed with further public engagement related activities pertaining to the Porter Proposal to introduce jets. PortsToronto will make any data and information gathered to date available to the City of Toronto and stakeholders that may be helpful to its Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan.

PortsToronto looks forward to working with you and your team in the future. We have had a strong and collaborative relationship with Transport Canada over the years and no doubt this will continue as we work towards achieving mutual goals for Canada's transportation system. We also look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the City of Toronto and waterfront stakeholders to ensure that the airport strikes an appropriate balance along the waterfront while continuing to offer a vital gateway for travellers. We feel confident that this can be achieved by maintaining a managed growth strategy, and by working with the federal and municipal governments in the years ahead to ensure a vibrant mixed-use waterfront community. PortsToronto understands that new federal regulation concerning runway end safety areas (RESA) may soon be confirmed, in which case we will assess that issue responsibly and in the context of enhanced safety in our operations.

With the decision communicated in your recent letter PortsToronto will continue its focus on the airport's current operations in order to benefit our passenger base, fulfil the airport's potential and serve Toronto's economic interests, all while ensuring appropriate fit with its waterfront surroundings.

Later today we will issue a statement that echoes some of what I have written here and confirms our approach regarding the studies and activities related to the Porter Proposal. We will not issue comment beyond what is indicated in the statement and are hopeful that this will provide the certainty that many are seeking with regard to our position.

Once again, thank you for your letter and the clarity it has provided. PortsToronto would welcome the opportunity to personally brief you on our business and have you visit our properties, including Billy Bishop Airport and the Port of Toronto, which both serve as essential transportation gateways for the city. We look forward to hearing from your office with regard to a future meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Poirier', with a large, stylized initial 'P' at the top.

Robert Poirier

Chair