

Toronto Port Authority releases results of City-wide survey

Majority of Torontonians want port operations - including Toronto City Centre Airport - to stay out of City of Toronto's control

TORONTO, Aug. 4 /CNW/ - The Toronto Port Authority (TPA) today released the results of a public opinion survey conducted by the national public-opinion research firm Pollara Strategic Insights.

The survey was conducted July 6-7, 2009, sampling 500 residents who live within the City of Toronto. In addition to probing the opinions on the performance of the TPA, the survey touched on a wide variety of topics, including attitudes toward the revitalization of the Toronto waterfront, and the Toronto City Centre Airport (TCCA). Porter Airlines and several other aviation enterprises operate out of the TCCA.

In recent years, a handful of local and federal politicians have demanded that the TPA be abolished, with the City of Toronto taking over its duties, including the operation of the TCCA. According to the Pollara survey, a majority of Torontonians (58%) oppose the concept of devolution to the City. Only 14% of respondents "strongly supported" the idea, and 17% "somewhat supported" the idea.

"We were interested in what our stakeholders had to say about this proposal, so we added the devolution question to our annual summer poll," said Mark McQueen, Chairman of the TPA's Board of Directors. "The public reaction was compelling, and serves as a guide for those of us involved in the economic future of Toronto."

The survey further probed Torontonians' attitudes toward the City of Toronto taking over the TPA and the TCCA by asking if they would be more supportive or opposed to this scenario if it meant removing Porter Airlines from the TCCA. Under that scenario, public opposition to devolution grew by a ratio of 4-to-1 against the devolution concept: 53% of Torontonians were more opposed to devolution, while 12% were more supportive.

"It is clear to us that Torontonians support the goals of the TPA in building a sustainable, secure harbour community that includes a thriving airport servicing short-haul passenger traffic," said Alan Paul, the TPA's Acting President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is also worth noting that this poll was conducted before the recent announcement that every TPA line of business reported an operating profit in fiscal 2008."

Survey results can be found on the TPA's website at www.torontoport.com, as well as other information about the TPA.

The Toronto Port Authority was incorporated on June 8, 1999, as a government business enterprise under the Canada Marine Act as the successor to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners. It is a federal public authority providing transportation, distribution, storage, and container services to businesses. The TPA owns and operates the Toronto City Centre Airport, Marine Terminals 51 and 52, and the Outer Harbour Marina. The TPA also provides regulatory controls and public works services to enhance the safety and efficiency of marine navigation and aviation in the port and harbour of Toronto.

Relevant Survey Results - Details

Pollara surveyed a random sample of 500 City of Toronto residents by telephone between July 6-7, 2009; the margin of error is +/- 4.4%, 19 times out of 20. It is the third annual survey probing Torontonians' views of the TPA, its performance and its strategic objectives. One key question involved the topic of handing over control of the TPA and the Toronto City Centre Airport to the City of Toronto.

The relevant Pollara question text and answers provided were as follows:

QN22N: Some have suggested that the Toronto Port Authority should be abolished, and that the City of Toronto should take over running all of the Port's duties - including transportation, public safety, and environmental protection responsibilities.

Is this something you would

Total Support.....	31%
Strongly Support.....	14%
Somewhat Support.....	17%
Total Oppose.....	58%
Somewhat Oppose.....	15%
Strongly Oppose.....	43%
Don't Know.....	11%
Refused.....	less than 01%
N Size.....	500

QN23N: If, as part of this take over, the City of Toronto closed the Toronto City Centre Airport and removed Porter Airlines, how would this impact your support or opposition to the Toronto Port Authority being abolished and the City of Toronto taking over the Port's duties?

Would it make you more supportive, more opposed, or would it have no impact on your support or opposition to this move?

Is that much more or somewhat more supportive/opposed?

Total More.....	12%
Much More Supportive.....	07%
Somewhat More Supportive.....	06%
No Impact	30%
Total Less.....	53%
Somewhat More Opposed.....	14%
Much More Opposed.....	39%
Don't Know.....	05%
Refused.....	less than 01%
N Size.....	500

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