



February 25, 2008

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C - 330 Sparks St.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Cannon:

Needs Assessment Study – Proposed Pickering Airport

We wish to formally advise the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, that the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors has formally endorsed, and fully supports in principal, the two recommendations outlined below. This information is part of the City of Hamilton's Airport Implementation task force report 08-001 d. Monday January 14th 2008." Needs Assessment Study – Proposed Pickering Airport (Item 6):

(a) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to send follow-up correspondence to the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, with respect to the Needs Assessment Study for the proposed Pickering Airport, such correspondence to include the following:

- (i) Expressing the City's opposition to the selection process
- (ii) Requesting reconsideration of the methodology of the process,
- (iii) Process should be more public and provide more opportunities for the City of Hamilton and other agencies, organizations and the public to participate;
- (iv) Requesting a review period after findings are complete
- (v) Timelines for the completion of various phases; and

(b) That the M.P.'s and M.P.P.'s be invited to a future meeting of the Committee of the Whole for discussion of the proposed Pickering Airport, issue.

With respect to this issue, we strongly support of the City of Hamilton's position, reflecting that we do indeed at least equally share their concerns. We give congratulations to our Council for taking this bold measure standing up for our Community; and frankly, the best interests of all Canadians to ensure that the process to be followed in this important matter is indeed fair, open, and free of any potential irreconcilable conflicts of interest, perceived or otherwise.

As we understand it, the Minister has appointed the Greater Toronto Airport Authority to conduct the referenced "needs assessment". As the GTAA owns much of the land in Pickering that is being considered for this facility; this constitutes an obvious, irreconcilable and unacceptable "conflict of interest"; which needs to be addressed immediately.

In short, this is an important process for the Cities of Toronto, Hamilton, and Pickering; this affects the future of Ontario and indeed all of Canadians.

If you have any questions, and/or require any further comment from us in this matter, please contact our Chief Executive Officer, John Dolbec at (905) 522-1151 ext. #229. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Tyler MacLeod,
President, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

cc. MPPs – Sophia Aggelonitis, Andrea Horwath, The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Paul Miller, Tim Hudak
MPs – Chris Charlton, David Christopherson, Wayne Marston, David Sweet, Dean Allison
Office of the Prime Minister
Leader of the Opposition, Stephane Dion
Perrin Beattie, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce
John Best, Executive Director of the Southern Ontario Gateway Council.
His Worship Fred Eisenberger and Hamilton City Council