



Mayor and Members of Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto M5H2N2

March 17, 2014

RE: EX40.1 EXPANSION OF BILLY BISHOP AIRPORT

CCFEW, Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront is a non profit community group formed in 1989 in response to the development proposals for Humber Bay Shores. We are actively involved with the City and TRCA in the creation of new parks and in the improvement and maintenance of existing ones. We also provide monthly bird walks, and most recently are offering nature classes in partnership with the Humber Arboretum in Sam Smith Park.

Our main objectives are to:

- Promote a healthy waterfront environment through preservation, rehabilitation and education
- Seek maximum parkland through preservation of existing parkland on Etobicoke's waterfront and the acquisition of additional waterfront and valley lands
- Promote meaningful citizen involvement in decisions affecting the environment and
- Ensure that any development or redevelopment is compatible with its surroundings in scope and scale.

We believe that the proposal to expand the Billy Bishop Airport poses a serious risk to the major improvements in Toronto's waterfront that have occurred since the Crombie Royal Commission set the stage for greening and enhancing the shoreline of Toronto. We are especially concerned about plans to expand the runways by more lakefilling. This as well as the additional land required to accommodate taxiways and safety areas is in effect paving over what is now publicly accessible recreational space - our harbour. Such filling will impact fish habitat and the impact of this on our drinking water has not been assessed.

The Toronto Islands are outside of CCFEW's focus area, but we believe that airport expansion on the Toronto Islands will have negative impacts on the natural environment in South Etobicoke. Our primary concern are the wildlife control measures necessary to safely operate an airport accommodating commercial jet traffic. Toronto's waterfront is a seasonal and year round home to a large number and variety of birds large enough to present a serious safety hazard to jet aircraft.

Lethal measures will be required to control hazard birds. While those lethal measures may or may not extend to South Etobicoke, they will have an effect. Removing birds from one part of the waterfront is a bit like removing the water from one part of the lake: more will come to take their place.

With a large and growing high-rise condominium area almost directly in the flightpath, the

consequences of failing to control hazard birds are potentially catastrophic, so control would be essential. We are also concerned about the increased noise and air pollution that will come to South Etobicoke with larger jet aircraft.

As a group that organizes bird walks and offers nature studies to elementary school children we know that the proposed expansion of the airport will inevitably have an impact on the bird population of the Leslie Street Spit and the Toronto Islands. Culling of flocks and destruction of habitat is part of the Wildlife Management Plan of airports that are not in as environmentally sensitive areas as is Billy Bishop.

We urge the members of Council to oppose any plans to expand the Billy Bishop Airport and to continue its support of a clean, green and accessible waterfront.

Sincerely,



Brian Bailey
President,
Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)
brian@ccfew.org

c.c. Councillor Grimes
Councillor Milczyn