



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

Friday, February 27, 2009

Councillor John Filion
Chair
Board of Health

Re: Union-Pearson Rail Link

Dear Councillor Filion

When completed, the corridor from Liberty Village to Rexdale will have 320 trains each day everywhere, and 340 south of the Junction. Currently, the corridor has about 50 per day while the lakeshore line will have 80 with its new services.

All along this line, there are numerous residential communities, school and other institutions. There are houses, schools and churches that line these tracks which in some cases have bedroom windows that will be 10 feet from the trains.

Currently the trains that will service this corridor will use diesel, with the promise that the line will be electrified someday in the future.

From a public health perspective, there are concerns raised about proximity to such emissions. Toronto Public Health has often recognized the concerns relating to air pollution, particulate matter and illness and premature death. Particulate matter is one of the chief pollutants of diesel engines which may increase the quantity of particulate matter exhausted by these trains by about 6 times that of the cars taken off the road from these trains.

While Toronto is fast earning the reputation of a world leader in environmental initiatives, Toronto will be the only city in the world building a diesel train to its airport.

I would request that Medical Officer of Health be request to conduct an independent study of the health impacts of this proposed rail line on the local air shed and report back to the Board of Health on his findings.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor, Ward 30

