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March 24, 2014

To: Members of Toronto City Council Executive Committee

Re: Billy Bishop Airport Expansion – Porter Airlines Proposal

Greetings,

I am writing to express Unifor's position as it relates to Porter Airlines proposal to have Council amend the tri-partite agreement to allow CS100 jets to fly in and out of Billy Bishop Airport and to extend the existing runway. Unifor represents workers at Bombardier Aerospace in Toronto. Because it is in the interest of our members, and the broader Toronto economy, Unifor strongly believes that the current Q400 turbo-prop aircraft, which is manufactured in Toronto should continue to be used at Billy Bishop Airport.


Porter Airlines proposal to use Bombardier CS100 jets manufactured in Quebec will diminish future purchase opportunities of the Toronto built Q400. None of the work on the CS100 will be performed by our members at the Bombardier plant in Toronto.

Unifor supports amending the tri-partite agreement to allow for the extension of the runway. This will allow Porter Airlines to fully fuel its current fleet of Q400's thereby increasing the airlines opportunities for growth to cities in which it cannot fly today which in turn could lead to future orders of the Q400. Further, expanding capacity at the Billy Bishop Airport will help Toronto to continue to grow and reach its potential as a North American hub.

I ask that you consider these key points in your deliberations.

If you have any questions, please contact Roland Kiehne, Director Membership Mobilization & Political Action Department by cell at 416-801-1120 or by email at roland.kiehne@unifor.org

Sincerely,



Jerry Dias
National President
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cc: Front office, Naureen Rizvi - Unifor Toronto Area Director, Dan Alushi - President Unifor Local 112, Mary Ellen McIlmoyle - President Unifor Local 673

