

May 3, 2000

To: Community Services Committee  
From: Barry H. Gutteridge, Commissioner, Works and Emergency Services  
Subject: Greater Toronto Airport Authority

Purpose:

This report proposes a compromise policy regarding issues arising from the City of Toronto's provision of ambulance services to the properties of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) (Pearson International Airport) prior to January 1, 2001.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no direct financial implications of this report. However, 50% of the cost of providing the services in question is currently borne by the City of Toronto despite the GTAA lands being fully within the Regional Municipality of Peel. The remaining 50% is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOTLTC).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Ambulance to communicate to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, Regional Municipality of Peel and the Ontario MOHLTC that:
  - (a) Toronto Ambulance will cease to provide routine day-to-day emergency ambulance coverage to the GTAA lands effective January 1, 2001, except in the form of emergency mutual aid as may be agreed upon in advanced between the Region of Peel and Toronto Ambulance;
  - (b) Toronto Ambulance will for the foreseeable future retain a lead role in disaster and mass casualty services to the GTAA site as currently provided;
  - (c) Toronto Ambulance will continue to participate actively in EMS planning for major incidents at the GTAA to the extent requested by the GTAA;
  - (d) Toronto Ambulance will cease to provide non-emergency transfer ambulance service arising from the GTAA and its associated facilities such as Field Aviation

and Avitat effective June 1, 2000; after June 1, 2000, the General Manager, Toronto Ambulance is instructed to refer back to the MOHLTC Mississauga Central Ambulance Communications Centre any such requests for non-emergency service made to Toronto Ambulance and to decline to provide such services; and

- (e) Toronto Ambulance continue to participate in negotiations between the GTAA and the CAO's Office regarding alternatives under a broader services accord which ensure appropriate compensation for any agreed services in the future; and
- (2) the appropriate municipal officials be given the authority to give effect thereto.

Background:

On October 7, 1999, the Community Services Committee reviewed a report submitted by Toronto Ambulance on the provision of ambulance and disaster services to Pearson International Airport. The GTAA lands are fully external to the borders of the City of Toronto, although historically Toronto Ambulance has provided service to the airport due to the inability of the local ambulance company to do so. With the downloading of ambulance services to the upper tier municipalities, and the transition of the airport lands from their status as a federal reservation to part of the Regional Municipality of Peel, there emerged a need to amend the service relationship to conform with the implications of downloading. The Committee directed the General Manager to resume negotiations with the stakeholders and report back.

Since that time, various efforts to negotiate a funding arrangement for the provision of these services have been undertaken without significant success.

It is the position of the Regional Municipality of Peel that, since they have not yet assumed responsibility for ambulance services in their region, negotiations should be conducted solely between Toronto Ambulance. The GTAA and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. At present, the MOHLTC manages the provision of ambulance services in Peel Region and bills the municipality for 50% of the costs thereof. The Peel position was recently restated to Toronto Ambulance in a letter from regional staff on April 10, 2000 in response to another request to reconvene negotiations.

It is the position of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority that if they are considered part of the lands of the Regional Municipality of Peel then they are entitled to municipal ambulance service from that Region without addition charge or contract.

As a compromise, Toronto Ambulance is prepared, at Council's direction, to continue as the primary day-to-day provider of emergency ambulance services to the airport until the Region of Peel's announced date of assumption of responsibility on January 1, 2001. To reduce the impact of providing these services upon the ambulance coverage in Etobicoke, Toronto Ambulance has requested that the MOHLTC direct its Mississauga Central Ambulance Communications Centre

to assign non-emergency ambulance calls arising from the airport facilities (such as transfers to home, nursing home or hospitals) solely to ambulances based within Peel Region.

This would bring the non-emergency service arrangement into compliance with the MOHLTC's own guidelines regarding the assignment of non-emergency transfers. The normal provincial practice is that non-emergency transfers are the responsibility of the ambulance service in the community from which the transfer originates. The only exception to this is the re-assignment of an out-of-town ambulance to pick up a patient returning to the ambulance's home community or a point conveniently on the route back to that community. Since these calls originate entirely within the Region of Peel, they should reasonably be assigned to ambulances based in Peel and not passed on to the Toronto Ambulance.

Toronto Ambulance has proposed this compromise to officials of the MOHLTC but has not received a reply to date.

Toronto Ambulance remains fully committed to providing full disaster response services to the airport in the event of any major emergency, regardless of the disposition of this matter. In addition, we are prepared to continue in our role of assisting the GTAA in pre-planning for major emergencies.

Finally, Toronto Ambulance would be pleased to participate in the ongoing negotiations between the City and the GTAA on a general services accord. Should alternative arrangements suitable to all parties emerge from these negotiations, Toronto Ambulance will advise Council accordingly. It is our understanding that it is CAO's direction that services provided by the City under such an accord are to be fully compensated.

Comments:

Council's direction in the resolution of this matter would assist in clarifying the City's position in these discussions and would greatly assist in bringing this matter to a conclusion.

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