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April 23, 2013

Dear Adam, Olivia, Pam and Rosario,

The YQNA Board asked me to write you with this request:

**We urgently need a public meeting in a large venue to give people from the GTA a voice in the Island Airport expansion proposal. We need a full discussion and questions answered. Will runways, to be extended into the lake, obstruct boating? Will the traffic double and include large jets? Would approval of Porter's jets automatically lead to all jets being allowed? Will decisions be made in back rooms with lobbyists but no public input? To save the Waterfront from Scarborough to Etobicoke we need answers!**

We ask our City, Provincial and Federal politicians to lead the fight against Porter's and Toronto Port Authority's efforts to tear up the Tripartite Agreement that currently governs the Island Airport. We must prevent jets from wrecking our Waterfront and accelerating all forms of pollution (noise, air, water) that would come from a doubling of airport traffic – on the ground and in the air.

The Waterfront is Toronto's iconic image and has huge financial importance with thousands of homes and tourist attractions along the 30 kilometer shoreline. You and all politicians who represent the GTA must understand this is no NIMBY issue, because the Waterfront is used and loved by citizens everywhere. Handing it over to expanded commercial and industrial uses would spoil this great natural and economic asset for Toronto. No airport profits – imagined or real – could make up for the loss of the Waterfront.

Pam and Adam have recently spoken against building a Las Vegas-type casino in Toronto in a huge public debate. We strongly feel that the threat of this expanded jet airport is just as vital to the city's future and also needs a full and open debate. It is time for our politicians to speak up -- and state their views on their websites – on the Island Airport issue. We need your courage and political leadership for all Torontonians, and please engage your colleagues and constituents in a vigorous discussion to save the Waterfront.

We also urge the media, various businesses and agencies to consider Toronto's long-term future and not let

their profits and personal convenience allow the Waterfront to deteriorate. As the threat of this industrial jet airport looms, we are looking forward to the results of Waterfront Toronto's years of planning with an investment of hundreds of millions of tax dollars. That's a solid investment, while a jet airport is not. A jet airport would decimate residents' and Waterfront Toronto's investment in the waterfront.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions about the location, date and format of a public meeting. The facts must be known to counter the massive promotion from Porter Airlines and their business associates. As residents, we can't match their funds, but we have the right to be heard and learn the true facts about the Island Airport.

Best regards,  
Bob Rasmussen

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