

Ex 31.27.6

Harbourfront

Community Association

Station A, Box 144

Toronto, M5W 1A2

For: Mayor Rob Ford, Toronto City Council, April 26, 2013

Subject: Toronto Island Airport Expansion Proposals

Have you ever heard a jet whisper?

Have you ever seen a forest in Greenland?

Can you really lose weight by eating low-cal ice cream, and drinking lite beer?

There's a big difference between PR marketing slogans and scientific truth.

If you believe marketing slogans, and ignore the truth, you're a big, fat fool.

The Port Authority claims the island airport is not noisy, according to their noise standards. The problem is that TPA noise measures are adjusted and averaged, and they do not measure the noise as we hear it. If they can't even tell the truth about the noise they make, how can we believe them when they say their jets whisper.

Jets are not quiet. They make a lot of noise, particularly when they're taxiing on the runways, taking off, and landing. Engine run-ups can be louder than rock concerts. Would you like to live near a rock concert that operates 16 hours a day, every day?

Island airport neighbours hear airport noise inside their homes from 6 am until nearly midnight every day, 365 days a year. Add airport construction noise and helicopters after midnight, and the waterfront is fast becoming a second rate place to live.

Toronto's Island Airport makes so much noise that property values are stagnating in surrounding neighbourhoods. The Island Airport has already killed Ontario Place as a tourist attraction, and airport expansion is slowly destroying the waterfront as a playground for the entire city. Sadly, the island will never be Toronto's Central Park, thanks to Porter Air's never-ending ambitions to expand the island airport.

The biggest potential problem is that Porter Air could eventually go bankrupt, like Canada 3000, and be taken over by a major airline partner, like American Airlines. What will happen to Toronto's Waterfront Playground then?

If you care about the Waterfront as a playground for the entire city of Toronto, please vote against the proposed expansion of the island airport.

Max Moore, Harbourfront Community Association
www.harbourfrontcommunity.info

For: Airport Community Liaison Committee - Noise Sub-Committee
From: Max Moore, Harbourfront Community Association, Feb 2, 2012

Subject: Airport Noise Measurements - Adjusted DBA Decibels or Complete DBC Decibels

Airport Noise is measured in decibels, but there are two types of decibel measurements. **Toronto Island Airport is using an invalid noise measurement, with DBA Decibels.**

Complete Decibel readings, called DBC Decibels, measure the full sound spectrum. Adjusted Decibel readings, called DBA Decibels, only measure 80% of the noise.

Island Airport neighbours are hearing **80 DBCs** of airport noise, while City Hall is hearing reports of **65 DBAs** of airport noise. It's the same noise, with different measurements.

DBA decibels are discounted by approx 20% because DBA decibels don't measure bass sounds. DBC measurements, which include bass noise, are a more accurate measure of both rock concerts and airport noise because there's so much bass in these noises.

Noise meters can display noise measurements as both DBAs and DBCs, by pressing a button. When you change from DBC to a DBA display, the decibel reading is lowered by 15-20%, simply by removing bass readings. All this does is to change the measurement, not the sound. It's like advertising a sale price and still charging full price.

If you're managing sound for a concert in a public park, for example, a policeman might ask you to turn down the volume because people are complaining. Some soundmen would show the policeman the lower DBA reading of 80 DBA decibels. It's dishonest, but if you show the more accurate 100 DBC decibel display, the cop might stop the concert.

Similarly, airports report noise measurements in DBA decibels to minimize their noise readings, for public relations purposes. Lower numbers help convince city hall that the airport is operating within legal noise limits, even when it isn't.

This is why Harbourfront community groups are requesting that Toronto Island Airport Noise Measurements be reported in Complete DBC Decibels. For the airport to continue using adjusted and averaged DBA noise measurements is simply lying with statistics.

Adjusting and discounting airport noise measurements by 20% is dishonest and wrong. Surely the Island Airport can do better for its urban neighbours than trying to baffle them with bullshit.

Harbourfront residents deserve more honesty from a federal agency like the Port Authority. Measuring airport noise with DBC Decibels would be a good way to start.

If the Federal Port Authority persists in being dishonest about these things, perhaps responsibility for managing Toronto's Port should be taken away from the federal government and returned to the city. Maybe then the Port Authority would pay its city taxes.