May 4, 2013

Toronto City Clerk,
Toronto City Hall
13th fl., W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
clerk@toronto.ca

Subject: Expansion of the Island Airport

Please forward this letter to the Mayor and all of the City Councillors

I am writing to you on behalf of Queen City Yacht Club to express our grave concerns about the current debate about extending the runways at the Island Airport. Our yacht club is based in the Toronto Harbour and itself and extension of the runways would pose a serious impact on the ability of our members to enjoy our Harbour.

My understanding is that Mr. Robert Deluce of Porter airlines is advocating extending the runways both further into the harbour as well as further out into the lake near Ontario Place. First of all Mr. Deluce has stated that by extending these runways there would be no change to the marine exclusion zone at either end. I seriously question his statement and if this is true then why have not statements from NAV Canada and Transport Canada been released either confirming or denying this statement. I can only conclude that they have not been asked or the information is being withheld for some reason. I strongly urge that City Council ask this question before considering endorsing the change to the Tripartite as agreement to allow jets to use the Island Airport.

Furthermore, I have heard that the estimates of the lengths of the runways as well as the limits of the exclusion zones are being completely underestimated by Mr. Deluce. According to information taken from the Canadian Aviation Regulations the runways require a Runway End Safety Area of 300 metres at the end of the runways and so again I cannot believe Mr. Deluce when he states that there will be no exclusion zone.

Extending the marine exclusion zone would in effect make the Western entrance into the Harbour all but un-useable which in times of inclement weather could pose a safety hazard to boaters out on the lake trying to reach the quieter waters of the Harbour. The extension of the exclusion zone further in the harbour would seriously affect the ability of any boater from kayakers to sailors to motor boats to enjoy this wonderful safe and beautiful harbour.

So in conclusion on behalf of the members of Queen City Yacht Club, I strongly urge the City Council not to support any change to the Tripartite Agreement until all of the facts are known about the consequences from the appropriate Government authorities and to avoid making a decision based on the rhetoric of one individual.

Sincerely,

Steven Hills
Commodore