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NATIONAL
YACHT CLUB

Friday, May 3, 2013

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SECRETARIAT SECTION

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Dear Members of Council,

We represent the interests of the members of the National Yacht Club with over 800 members in the city of Toronto. Our club has a rich history and we have been a strong presence on the Toronto waterfront for almost 120 years. Our members are continuous users of the Western Gap between Toronto Island and the shoreline and we are concerned about the BBTCA runway extension being proposed by Porter Airlines. In order for the runway expansion to occur, the Tripartite Agreement outlining the terms of use for the island airport must be amended.

We are very concerned about access to Humber Bay through the Western Gap as well as any additional noise, smell, and pollution that may result from the proposed expansion and the new jet aircraft. The proposed plan by Porter Airlines states that there will be no impact to access and enjoyment of the waterways in Toronto Harbour. Should the Marine Exclusion Zone at the end of the runway change from its current position, access to the lake will be impeded for many users. Porter advises that the plans will not require an extension of this Exclusion Zone however this decision would be the responsibility of Transport Canada. We are concerned that Transport Canada can change this Exclusion Zone at any time. This lends uncertainty to the impact of this decision.

The Western Gap is an important waterway that is used by the marine police and fire services, commercial cruise boats, motor boaters, sailors and the upcoming Pan Am Games. To reduce or eliminate access to the lake at the Western Gap would cut off the operations and enjoyment of many citizens and visitors. Further, should the marine police and fire units be required to access the lake by going through the Eastern Gap, accident victims could be placed in greater danger as a result of service delay.

We are making a plea to the City of Toronto to ensure that, when the request for changes to the Tripartite Agreement is debated at City Council, considerable attention be given to the future impact of this decision on the city's waterfront and in particular water access at the Western Gap. Lake Ontario is a beautiful lake that is the envy of many people around the world. To have access to it at our doorstep is a blessing and one that should not be jeopardized.

Sincerely,

Denys Jones
Commodore and
National Yacht Club Board of Directors