



## **The Future for Billy Bishop Airport Requires Urgent Action and a Modern Governing Agreement**

October 7, 2024

Minister Anand  
Ministry of Transportation  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
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Mayor Chow  
100 Queen St. W.  
City Hall, Second floor, West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
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Dear Minister Anand and Mayor Chow,

I am writing to you to express my support for the sustained operation and development of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. As the President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, I am extremely concerned to learn that the Tripartite Agreement that governs operations at the Airport expires in 2033 – less than 9 years from now.

Billy Bishop Airport provides a critical service and point of connection for the North. Many of my community members rely on Billy Bishop airport to visit family, connect through to other destinations for work, travel and tourism or to access critical medical services, the convenience and ease of Billy Bishop Airport cannot be matched. It has been reported widely that Northern Ontario communities have experience drastic reductions in air service coming out of the COVID pandemic. Reliable air connectivity available through Billy Bishop Airport is an important economic and social lifeline for my community.

We were pleased to see the Federal Government's investment in a US Customs and Border Patrol preclearance facility, which is expected to open in 2025. This is welcome news for our community as it will enable more and better connections through Billy Bishop Airport and amplify the airport's already strong economic contribution. We viewed this investment in the airports long term future as recognition of the very

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important role the airport has come to play for the communities it connects including Northeastern Ontario – very much at odds with an agreement that expires in a matter of years.

To that end, we would implore you, as signatories to the Tripartite Agreement, to commence a process to modernize the Tripartite Agreement and secure the long-term future of Canada's 9th-busiest airport and 3rd-busiest in Ontario. My community members rely on this service and we want to see even more connections and expanded services to the North. As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to think past our own front doors, reflect the needs of all of our constituents and those beyond our communities who are impacted by our decisions. Certainty about the airport's long-term future should not be something we as leaders should need to think long about. The time is now for the parties of the agreement to move forward with urgency to ensure this vital piece of transportation infrastructure and the important connections it facilitates are sustained.

FONOM is an association of some 110 districts/municipalities/cities/towns in Northeastern Ontario mandated to work for the betterment of municipal government in Northern Ontario and strive for improved legislation respecting local government in the North. It is a membership-based association that draws its members from northeastern Ontario and is governed by an 11-member board.



President Danny Whalen  
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cc: Honourable Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism  
Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry  
Arun Thangaraj, Deputy Minister of Transport Canada  
John D. Elvidge, City of Toronto Clerk  
Paul Johnson, City Manager  
Jag Sharma, Deputy City Manager  
RJ Steenstra, President and CEO  
Sandra Papatello, Chair, Board of Directors  
Neil Pakey, President and CEO  
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation  
Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development