

September 30, 2024

Dear Minister Anand and Mayor Chow,

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

I am writing to you to express the support of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce for the sustained operation and development of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. It is concerning 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 Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario. Many of our Chamber Members rely on Billy Bishop airport to connect through to Toronto and other destinations for work, family visits, or to access critical medical services. The convenience and ease of Billy Bishop Airport cannot be matched. In addition, reliable air connectivity available through Billy Bishop Airport is an important economic and social lifeline for Thunder Bay as our community has experienced reductions in air service in recent years.

We were pleased to see the Federal Government's investment in a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol preclearance facility, which is expected to open in 2025. This is welcome news as it will enable more and better connections through Billy Bishop Airport and amplify the airport's already strong economic contribution. We view this investment in the airport's long-term future as recognition of the very important role the airport has come to play for the communities it connects and is 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. Chamber members rely on this service, and we want to see even more connections and expanded services to Northern Ontario communities. **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.**

Sincerely,



Charla Robinson
President

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Government of Canada
Honourable Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism
Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Arun Thangaraj, Deputy Minister of Transport Canada

City of Toronto
John D. Elvidge, City of Toronto Clerk
Paul Johnson, City Manager
Jag Sharma, Deputy City Manager

PortsToronto
RJ Steenstra, President and CEO
Sandra Pupatello, Chair, Board of Directors

Nieuport Aviation
Neil Pakey, President and CEO

Government of Ontario
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade