



Toronto Civic Employees' Union, Local 416

110 Laird Drive
Toronto, ON M4G 3V3

LOCAL 416

VIA EMAIL ONLY

September 30, 2024

Dear Members of Toronto City Council Executive Committee:

I am writing to emphasize the vital role that the approximately one hundred Local 416 members play in the operations of Ports Toronto and the broader economic fabric of our city. Our members provide critical services to an impressive 2.8 million passengers annually - over 7,000 passengers each day. In addition, we serve approximately 7,000 recreational boaters, cruise ships and cargo vessels that contribute to the bustling activity at our ports. The dedication and hard work of our members are essential to the effective functioning of Toronto's infrastructure and economy.

The entire City of Toronto relies heavily on the interconnectedness of various systems, including energy, transportation, water and emergency services. The broader public sector, which encompasses our members' work, is an indispensable partner in fostering economic development and ensuring the City of Toronto's prosperity.

While our members perform an array of general duties throughout the City every day, we also proudly represent the workers at Ports Toronto, including those at Billy Bishop Airport. The economic significance of Ports Toronto cannot be overstated. The prosperity generated here is remarkable:

- Nearly 5,000 jobs directly supported;
- A substantial contribution of \$470 million to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as of 2018;
- Tax revenue amounting to \$74 million in the same year;
- And, prior to the pandemic, associated with approximately \$150 million in direct economic activity in downtown Toronto.

Our members undertake a diverse range of responsibilities that keep the operations of Ports Toronto running smoothly and successfully. At Billy Bishop Airport, for example, our members are directly involved in crucial areas such as fire protection, maintenance and administration. These tasks are vital to ensuring that this busy airport and the port functions effectively, providing connectivity to a total of thirty international destinations. Furthermore, Billy Bishop Airport serves over 100 international destinations through its airline partners, making it Canada's twelfth busiest airport. This facility plays an essential role in alleviating short-haul air traffic to Lester B. Pearson International Airport while also serving as a key transportation hub for downtown Toronto and beyond.

Affiliated with the Canadian
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I acknowledge that opinions may vary regarding potential investments in the airport. However, from our members' perspective, the focus remains steadfast on providing for their families and securing their livelihoods. The challenges posed by forty-year highs in inflation, exacerbated by the global pandemic, have made daily life increasingly difficult and expensive for many. While I won't delve into specifics, it is crucial to highlight how these economic conditions underpin our commitment to the sustainability of Ports Toronto and the job security of our members.

In closing, our position is clear: the economic activity generated by Ports Toronto must be protected and nurtured. Local 416 members stand ready to support growth and adapt to changes that will secure our livelihoods and enhance the well-being of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Mariconda', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and ending in a small upward-pointing arrow.

Eddie Mariconda
President
Toronto Civic Employees'
Union – CUPE Local 416

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