



# GOODERHAM & WORTS

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

**July 10, 2026**

**To Gina Ang**  
**Toronto Board of Health**  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
via email [boh@toronto.ca](mailto:boh@toronto.ca)

**Subject: Support HL34.5 - Investigating the Increased Risk of Heart Disease, Lung Cancer, and Tumours from Bringing Jets to Toronto's Waterfront Communities**

Dear Chair Moise and Board Members,

On behalf of members of the Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association (GNWA), which represents residents around the Distillery District, I urge that you request the Medical Officer of Health to investigate the manifold potential increased health impacts and risks to residents of Toronto's Waterfront Communities from plans to bring jets and increased flight volumes to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA).

Our community is located just north of Lake Shore Blvd East between Cherry and Parliament Streets. Our residents are active users of the wonderful waterfront public realm developed over the past two decades by Waterfront Toronto, with the funding support of all three levels of government, including the City of Toronto. Our Living Long in the Distillery (LLID) Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) promotes seniors' wellbeing through group activities such as pole walking along the east waterfront promenade. Community members of all ages have been delighting in enjoying the exceptional public facilities and naturalized spaces on Ookwemin Minising island, notably the expanding Biidaasige Park. Our members have actively contributed to planning for East Bayfront, Quayside, and Ookwemin Minising over several decades and have been looking forward to welcoming many thousands of new neighbours in badly needed new homes in these adjacent areas. The existing turboprop plane traffic is a noticeable distraction during our activities along the waterfront, but thankfully these flights are not overly frequent.

We are deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts of increasing flight volumes and adding jet planes over Ookwemin Minising and along the waterfront. Our community already faces the environment health risks of the heavily used Union Station East Rail Corridor and elevated Gardiner expressway beside us. Residents are worried that adding more polluting emissions and noise from increased airport traffic and jet engines would threaten their health and safety.

The different takeoff and approach flight profiles for jet aircraft and different noise contours for jet engines are likely to result in different health impacts that the current Dash 8-400Q turboprop



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flights. And of course, dramatically increasing the number of flights as suggested in provincial government and Toronto Port Authority statements would amplify negative impacts.

Prior studies of environmental impacts on the western waterfront closer to BBTCA provide stark warnings of the potential health dangers. The 2020-2022 Air Quality Study by University of Toronto researchers, funded by NSERC, clearly identified that emissions produced by airport-related activities are increasing air pollution exposure in the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood (BQN).<sup>1</sup> Ultra-Fine Particles (UFP) produced by aircraft engines are understood to pose health risks. Dramatically increasing the number of flights could be expected to threaten the health of nearby residents.<sup>2</sup> We suspect that the longer takeoff and landing paths, and differing fuel combustion profiles of jets, will extend the impact zone further from BBTCA along the eastern and western waterfront.

We believe it is essential for residents along Toronto's waterfront to have an informed view of the serious potential risks to their health posed by the proposed expansion of BBTCA. It has been challenging to get transparent disclosure and access to studies undertaken for Toronto Port Authority in the past, making it vital to have a trusted, transparent source such as the City's Medical Officer of Health collecting relevant data and conducting comprehensive studies.

Thank you on behalf of GWNA members.

Neil Betteridge  
Chair of Development Committee  
Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association  
[development@gwna.ca](mailto:development@gwna.ca)

cc:  
Deputy Mayor Malik, Tom Davidson  
Eddie LaRusic  
MP Evan Solomon  
Chris Heffler, President, GWNA

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<sup>1</sup> Campus-Community Partnership for Reducing Air Pollution in the Bathurst Quay Neighborhood, Study Leads Greg Evans & Marianne Hatzopoulou, University of Toronto's Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research (UofT SOCAAR) and Transportation and Air Quality (UofT TRAQ), May 2024 ( <https://positivezero.civmin.utoronto.ca/bqna> )

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Assessment of Proposed Runway Extension and Introduction of Jets at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport - Environmental Study Report, AECOM for PortsToronto, September 2017