

Ward 12, Toronto – St. Paul's
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Suite A17
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7906
Fax: 416-392-0124
councillor_matlow@toronto.ca
www.joshmatlow.ca



Toronto Board of Health

100 Queen Street West
City Hall, 10th floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

July 12, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Health,

Re: Investigating Health Impact of Introducing Jets at Billy Bishop Airport

I introduced a motion at City Council requesting that the Medical Officer of Health examine the potential health impacts of introducing jets at Billy Bishop Airport to empower Toronto's residents with critical information - as the Province has made explicit efforts to cut them out of the decision-making process about the future of their waterfront.

I made a similar request at the Planning and Housing Committee for a report on the potential impact on housing and traffic if Billy Bishop Airport is expanded to accommodate 10 million passengers. While any analysis will necessarily involve some uncertainty, it will nonetheless provide residents with the evidence they need to be informed and to advocate for themselves.

Access to reliable information is especially critical where public health is concerned. Tens of thousands of people could be directly affected by increased air, water, and noise pollution, and they deserve a clear assessment of the available science and evidence. They do not expect absolute certainty; but they expect honesty and transparency.

We cannot wait around for more ideal conditions.

We cannot expect more information from the Province. Indeed, the one thing we know for sure is that the Province will be using a Special Economic Zone to exempt themselves from normal disclosure, study and accountability. They have been pushing through legislation before even disclosing a plan or business model publicly.

Even without provincial cooperation, a substantial body of publicly available information already exists from which reasonable assumptions and scenarios can be developed to assess the proposal's potential impacts. This includes Toronto Public Health's 2013 report on the subject, which provides a strong foundation for further analysis. If anything, we have considerably more information now than we had 13 years ago such as emerging science on ultrafine particles, including data that has been collected

around Billy Bishop Airport. The public should be able to rely on Toronto Public Health to compile this kind of information, evaluate it, and advise them on how it might apply to a range of relevant scenarios.

I urge you to approve a motion which reflects the importance and urgency of ensuring that residents know the health impacts of plans to bring jets to our city's waterfront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Matlow', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Councillor Josh Matlow
City Councillor
Toronto – St. Paul's
www.joshmatlow.ca