

Board of Health

171 communications with similar text were received from Wednesday July 8, 2024 at 12:23 PM to Thursday July 9, 2026 at 3:30 PM

To: Board of Health <boh@toronto.ca>

RE: Health Risks from Expanding Billy Bishop Airport

Dear City Division Board of Health,

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 13, 2026 Board of Health meeting on item 2026.HL34.5, Investigating the Increased Risk of Heart Disease, Lung Cancer, and Tumours from Bringing Jets to Toronto's Waterfront Communities

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Toronto Board of Health Clerk,

I am writing to urge you to protect the health of Torontonians by opposing the expansion of Billy Bishop Airport and the introduction of commercial jet aircraft.

Unlike most airports, Billy Bishop sits on a sensitive, densely populated waterfront surrounded by homes, schools, hospitals, and parks. Expanding its capacity will expose tens of thousands of residents to increased environmental stressors where they live, work, and recover.

Claims that modern "whisper jets" eliminate noise concerns are not supported by evidence. Public health depends not just on how loud an aircraft is, but on the frequency and cumulative impact of exposure.

Decades of robust environmental health research link chronic aircraft noise to severe health outcomes:

- **Cardiovascular and Stress Risks:** Elevated chronic stress, sleep disturbance, and increased risks of cardiovascular disease.
- **Cognitive Development:** Impaired cognitive and reading performance in school-aged children.
- **Lower Thresholds of Harm:** The UK Civil Aviation Authority's [Aviation Noise Attitudes Survey 2023–2024](#) confirms that populations become highly affected by aircraft noise at significantly lower levels than previously recognized.

- **Nighttime Disruption:** The UK Department for Transport's [Aviation Night Noise Effects \(ANNE\)](#) study established clear associations between night noise, sleep disruption, and high levels of "annoyance"—which environmental health experts classify as a direct adverse health outcome reflecting chronic stress.

At a minimum, the City of Toronto should not support any expansion without first requiring a comprehensive, independent assessment of the cumulative public health impacts on the downtown population.

Toronto has invested heavily in creating a vibrant, livable waterfront. We should protect that investment by reducing environmental noise, not increasing it. I respectfully urge the Board of Health to champion these public health concerns and reject proposals to expand Billy Bishop Airport.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

From:

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Ian Mitchell	Mandy Sala	Diana Lewis
K. Schilling	Nabil Wahed	Diane Chester

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Gail & Ganetakos
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