



23 March 2026

To Mayor Olivia Chow and members of City Council:

York Quay Neighbourhood Association supports City Council's agenda item this week:

MM39.59 - Toronto Must Have a Say in Waterfront Decisions - by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow

YQNA was opposed to jets flying over the Waterfront ten years ago, and we oppose them now. Our losses would be much greater today, with the huge investments made in what is North America's largest urban renewal project. The high-rises that line the shore are home to tens of thousands of people, and businesses of all kinds are thriving here.

It is no secret that the Island Airport has been struggling financially, with flights down by 30% since COVID, and Porter Airlines having moved most its business to Pearson International Airport. Much of the convenience of having an airport downtown was lost when the UP Express to Pearson opened. It's hard to make financial sense of what appears like an attempt to save this airport, no matter what damage it would do to Toronto. Two things are certain: the revenue that the Waterfront generates for the city far exceeds any value coming from the Island Airport. And if jets were allowed, it would change life as we know it on the Waterfront.

YQNA is among many groups and agencies in Toronto who find it absurd that Premier Doug Ford can expropriate any part of Canada's largest city as his "special economic zone" to play with, with citizens paying the bill.

In the coming weeks, YQNA will not be in a NIMBY fight against a jet airport here, because the Waterfront belongs to all of Toronto and millions of visitors.

Sincerely,
Neal Colgrass
Co-chair, YQNA

(416) 305-9940
neal@colgrass.com