



June 11, 2026

Nancy Martins

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Email phc@toronto.ca

Attn: Planning and Housing Committee

RE: PH31.5 – Billy Bishop Airport Proposed Expansion: Response to Council Request for Information on Housing and Transportation Impacts

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Billy Bishop Airport and the introduction of jet aircraft.

The City's May 2026 report makes it clear that many of the most important questions remain unanswered. The Toronto Port Authority has not provided sufficient details regarding the proposed expansion, and further study is required to understand the impacts on transportation, housing, parkland, public spaces, water quality, air quality, public health, and overall waterfront livability. The report also notes that traffic studies, health assessments, and other technical analyses are either underway or still required before the implications of the proposal can be properly understood.

Most importantly, the report recognizes that even incremental airport expansion in a constrained urban waterfront setting can create impacts that extend well beyond the airport boundary. Those impacts are not theoretical. They affect neighbourhoods, parks, public spaces, housing, recreation, and the broader waterfront experience.

South Etobicoke has spent decades recovering from its industrial past. Significant public investment has transformed the waterfront into a place where people want to live, raise families, recreate, and connect with Lake Ontario. The City's waterfront vision has been built around environmental protection, housing, parks, public spaces, climate resilience, and equitable access to the waterfront. Introducing jet aircraft and expanding airport operations risks moving in the opposite direction.

The report specifically identifies concerns regarding the potential impact on waterfront public spaces, including parks, trails, beaches, marinas, and other areas intended to provide quiet and restorative experiences. It notes that increased flight activity and the introduction of jets could negatively affect the character and enjoyment of these spaces. The report also highlights concerns about water quality in the Inner Harbour, where previous studies found that runway extensions and additional lakefill could interfere with water circulation and hinder ongoing environmental remediation efforts.

There is also a fundamental question of fairness. Long Branch residents are far more likely to use Pearson International Airport because of its proximity and convenience. They would receive little or no direct benefit from an expansion of Billy Bishop Airport while experiencing the resulting increases in noise, emissions, and environmental impacts.

Vibrant and livable communities do not typically develop around expanding flight paths. In contrast, successful waterfront communities evolve by reducing incompatible industrial and transportation impacts over time. South Etobicoke is finally realizing the benefits of decades of waterfront revitalization. Increased jet activity would represent a step backward.

Until the required studies are completed and publicly reviewed, there is insufficient evidence to support expansion. The government must also be prepared to accept that a comprehensive assessment process may conclude that jets simply do not have a place at Billy Bishop Airport. That should be considered a legitimate outcome, not an obstacle to be overcome.

Sincerely,



Christine Mercado
Chair,
Long Branch Neighbourhood Association
Longbranchnato@gmail.com

Cc

Planning and Housing Committee

Gord Perks, Chair
Frances Nunziata, Vice Chair
Josh Matlow, Councillor
Jamaal Myers, Councillor
Brad Bradford, Councillor
Vincent Crisanti, Councillor

Etobicoke Community Council

Stephen Holyday, Chair, Etobicoke Lake Shore Community Council
Vincent Crisanti, Councillor
Frances Nunziata, Councillor

Anthony Perruzza, Vice Chair, Etobicoke Lake Shore Community Council
Amber Morley, Councillor Ward 3, Deputy Mayor

Member of Provincial Parliament Etobicoke Lake Shore

Lee Fairclough, MPP, Etobicoke Lake Shore

Member of Parliament Etobicoke Lake Shore

James Maloney, MP, Etobicoke Lake Shore