



ARCADIA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE INC.
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Comments on the Effects of Expansion and Use of Jets at the Island Airport

**To: Chris Dunn, Project Manager wps@toronto.ca and cdunn@toronto.ca
Stephanie Gower, Department of Public Health sgower@toronto.ca**

Arcadia Housing Co-op is a community of 215 people, located about 360 metres from the Island Airport. Arcadia has been providing affordable housing for 27 years, since it was built on city-owned former industrial land, as part of Toronto's residential and recreational renewal of its central waterfront. Arcadia has always been a stable community, with very few move-outs.

Arcadia Co-op worries that any further expansion of the airport and any breach of the Tripartite Agreement will have a negative health impact on our community. Already we are concerned about the safety of our children crossing the street to the Waterfront School and Harbourfront Community Centre, where airport fuel trucks, buses, taxis, limousines and cars pass in front of them.

We worry further about the airport noise that interferes with our sleep and that of our children, which makes their concentrating at school more difficult.


We worry about contaminants in the air in the vicinity of the school, adjoining community centre, Little Norway Park, and at home. Of the twenty-eight adults who live on the top floor of our co-op, five have been diagnosed with cancer. That is a disturbing cluster of disease. We worry further about the health effects of the airport on our other vulnerable residents, the seniors and people who have disabilities and lung conditions.

Already some residents who have lived in Arcadia since its beginning are moving away because they can no longer tolerate the airport noise, traffic and pollution.

If the airport is allowed to expand and if jet airplanes are allowed to fly from the island, those Arcadia residents who are able to move away increasingly will do so. Accelerating move-outs could cause devastating vacancy losses for our co-op, which could then cease to exist as a co-op, removing 110 units of affordable housing from Toronto's downtown. This prospect sounds extreme, but our national Co-operative Housing Federation warns that it is a very real danger for co-ops. In that case, airport expansion could provide the "tipping point" for the co-op's demise.

If the airport expands and the four co-ops on Bathurst Quay experience serious vacancy losses and cease to exist as co-ops, a total of 340 affordable downtown housing units will be lost to our city. In this case reality and fear of negative health impacts from the airport expansion would cause serious negative economic impacts.

Sincerely,


Dennis Bryant
Corporate Secretary
for the Board of Directors
Arcadia Housing Co-operative Inc.