



June 30, 2006

OPEN LETTER

The Hon. Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Hon. John Baird
President of the Treasury Board
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Ministers:

As someone who has been actively involved at Toronto City Hall with efforts to revitalize Toronto's waterfront, **I urge you to freeze** the operations of both the Toronto Port Authority (TPA), and Porter Airlines, pending the review of the TPA. At the same time, place the TPA in trusteeship, and deny an operating certificate to Porter Airlines.

Residents of Toronto have said in municipal and federal elections that we don't want an expanded Island Airport or commercial airline operations at our harbourfront. We have profound concerns with the plans that Porter has announced this week for a massive increase in air traffic with numerous daily passenger flights into downtown Toronto. These concerns extend to the environment, the ecosystem of both Lake Ontario and Toronto Island, the impact on a thriving film industry, and the quality of life at the waterfront which has become an important residential and recreational centre in Toronto.

As well, we urge the Federal Government to consider the safety and security not just of thousands of waterfront residents, but of the commercial and financial centre of Canada, which is just a stone's throw from the Island Airport.

Visit our waterfront and Toronto Island -- I would be happy to give you a tour. I am convinced that when you see the lay of the land and consider the impact of Porter Airlines' reckless plans and the mismanagement of the TPA, you will agree with the people and the Mayor of Toronto and make sure this ill conceived air service is permanently grounded.

Helen Kennedy