



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
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October 7, 2024

Honourable Anita Anand  
President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6  
Via Email: [Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca)

Her Worship Mayor Olivia Chow  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall, 2nd Floor  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Via Email: [mayor\\_chow@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_chow@toronto.ca)

Re: The Future for Billy Bishop Airport Requires Urgent Action and a Modern Governing Agreement

Dear Minister Anand and Mayor Chow,

I am writing to you to express my support for the sustained operation and development of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. As the President of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, I am extremely concerned to learn that the Tripartite Agreement that governs operations at the Airport expires in 2033 – less than 9 years from now.

Billy Bishop Airport provides a critical service and point of connection for the North. Many of my community members rely on Billy Bishop airport to visit family, connect through to other destinations for work, travel and tourism or to access critical medical services, the convenience and ease of Billy Bishop Airport cannot be matched. It has been reported widely that Northern Ontario communities have experienced drastic reductions in air service coming out of the COVID pandemic. Reliable air connectivity available through Billy Bishop Airport is an important economic and social lifeline for my community.

We were pleased to see the Federal Government's investment in a US Customs and Border Patrol preclearance facility, which is expected to open in 2025. This is welcomed news for communities in Northwestern Ontario as it will enable more and better connections through Billy Bishop Airport and amplify the airport's already strong economic contribution. We viewed this investment in the airport's long term future as recognition of the very important role the airport has come to play for the communities it connects including Northwestern Ontario – very much at odds with an agreement that expires in a matter of years.

To that end, we would implore you, as signatories to the Tripartite Agreement, to commence a process to modernize the Tripartite Agreement and secure the long-term future of Canada's 9<sup>th</sup>-busiest airport and 3<sup>rd</sup>-busiest in Ontario. My community members rely on this service, and we

want to see even more connections and expanded services to the North. As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to think past our own front doors, reflect the needs of all of our constituents and those beyond our communities who are impacted by our decisions. Certainty about the airport's long-term future should not be something we as leaders should need to think long about. **The time is now for the parties of the agreement to move forward with urgency to ensure this vital piece of transportation infrastructure and the important connections it facilitates are sustained.**

Sincerely,



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Wendy Landry  
President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association  
Mayor, Municipality of Shuniah

Cc:

Hon. Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism, Government of Canada  
Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Government of Canada  
Hon. Arun Thangaraj, Deputy Minister of Transport Canada, Government of Canada  
John D. Elvidge, City of Toronto, Clerk  
Paul Johnson, City of Toronto, City Manager  
Jag Sharma, City of Toronto, Deputy City Manager  
RJ Steenstra, President and CEO, Ports Toronto  
Sandra Papatello, Chair, Board of Directors, Ports Toronto  
Neil Pakey, President and CEO, Nieuport Aviation  
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Government of Ontario  
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Government of Ontario  
MP Patty Hajdu (Thunder Bay - Superior North)  
MP Marcus Powlowski – Thunder Bay-Rainy River  
MP Eric Melillo – Kenora  
MPP Greg Rickford, (Kenora – Rainy River)  
MPP Kevin Holland, (Thunder Bay - Atikokan)  
MPP Lise Vaugeois, (Thunder Bay - Superior North)  
All member municipalities - CAOs and Clerks