

Land Over Landings



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Media Release: Rally and Motion Requesting Transparency on Pickering Airport Plans

On Monday, Jan. 27, members of Land Over Landings, the Claremont & District Community Association, and Friends of the Rouge Watershed will join Pickering councillors to demand information from the federal government on the planned Pickering airport and associated “economic development.”

Councillors will be debating a motion from Coun. David Pickles demanding answers from Transport Canada on exact plans for the Lands.

After years of virtual silence on the airport issue, the government renewed its commitment to constructing the facility at a June 2013 announcement, when officials sketched out plans to dedicate 8,700 acres to the future airport and 5,000 acres to Parks Canada for inclusion in the new Rouge National Urban Park, leaving 4,900 acres for unspecified economic development which “does not include agriculture”, according to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Coun. Pickles’ motion demands more transparency, including calls for the preparation of a business case for an airport, a comprehensive environmental assessment, co-operation with the City on the creation of new airport zoning restrictions for the Lands, and the re-establishment of a Pickering Advisory Committee to act as a liaison between the City and the federal government.

Representatives of Land Over Landings, FRW, and the CDCA will speak during the Pickering council meeting.

“This is not just about north Pickering, what is done here will impact people across Toronto, across the GTHA,” said Mary Delaney, chair of Land Over Landings.

“Please join us. It’s important for people to come and show with their physical presence that we all have a stake in this matter, that we must know what this federal plan is all about. We don’t want an unnecessary airport. We want to protect our most valuable vanishing resources – foodland and water.

“We are confident that every member of council will support this motion. It will send a strong message,” Ms. Delaney said.

“When it passes it will be something we can use as a template to take to surrounding municipalities such as Ajax and Uxbridge. Ultimately, it will be something to show Durham Regional Council and the federal government – that this is the will of the people and the municipalities. We don’t want this unnecessary and wasteful airport, and we do want to be part of the decision-making process when so much is at stake.”

Members of the public are being invited to a rally at Pickering City Hall at 6:45 p.m. on the 27th to show their support for this motion. You may arrive early (around 6:45 p.m.) to join the rally or go straight into the Council Chambers, where the meeting will start at 7 p.m. Latecomers are still welcome to attend.

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- 30 -

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