

Begin forwarded message:

From: Minister of Transport / Ministre des Transports <MINTC@tc.gc.ca>

Date: 15 January, 2014 2:52:25 PM EST

To: "landoverlanding@gmail.com" <landoverlanding@gmail.com>
Cc: "cims_oper@pm.gc.ca" <cims_oper@pm.gc.ca>, "james.flaherty@parl.gc.ca" <james.flaherty@parl.gc.ca>, "gerry.ritz@parl.gc.ca" <gerry.ritz@parl.gc.ca>, "CHRIS.ALEXANDER@PARL.GC.CA" <CHRIS.ALEXANDER@PARL.GC.CA>, "thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca" <thomas.mulcair@parl.gc.ca>, "JOHN.MCCALLUM@PARL.GC.CA" <JOHN.MCCALLUM@PARL.GC.CA>, "PAUL.CALANDRA@PARL.GC.CA" <PAUL.CALANDRA@PARL.GC.CA>, "COLIN.CARRIE@PARL.GC.CA" <COLIN.CARRIE@PARL.GC.CA>, "ERIN.O'TOOLE@PARL.GC.CA" <ERIN.O'TOOLE@PARL.GC.CA>, "JUSTIN.TRUDEAU@PARL.GC.CA" <JUSTIN.TRUDEAU@PARL.GC.CA>, "elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca" <elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca>, "CORNELIU.CHISU@PARL.GC.CA" <CORNELIU.CHISU@PARL.GC.CA>, "OLIVIA.CHOW@PARL.GC.CA" <OLIVIA.CHOW@PARL.GC.CA>

Subject: Government of Canada's plans for the Pickering Lands.

Ms. Mary Delaney
Chair
Land Over Landings
landoverlanding@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Delaney:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 18, 2013, regarding the Government of Canada's plans for the Pickering Lands. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

On June 11, 2013, the Government of Canada announced a balanced approach to the management of the Pickering Lands. Under this approach, a portion of the Pickering Lands will be set aside for the Rouge National Urban Park, and the remainder of the lands will be retained for future use as an airport, and for economic development. As was noted during the June 11 announcement, this management approach strikes a responsible balance that will allow us to preserve quality of life, while creating jobs and long-term prosperity in the Greater Toronto Area.

The basis for retaining lands for future use as an airport was a Needs Assessment Study released in 2011. The study predicted that an additional airport would be needed in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area between 2027 and 2037, when capacity at existing airports is reached. The

Pickering Lands were considered a prime location for this airport. I should note that Transport Canada will continue to monitor aviation demand and capacity to inform its decision-making on a future airport.

The Department has initiated a federal regulatory process to re-designate the Pickering Airport Site and to update the Pickering Airport Site Zoning Regulations to reflect a smaller airport site. The regulatory process will provide an opportunity for comments on the impact of the regulations on lands adjacent to the new Pickering Airport Site.

In addition, departmental officials and I continue to seek and receive the views of various interests on the future management and development of the remaining Transport Canada lands. Transport Canada will communicate its findings once this engagement process is complete.

Transport Canada appreciates Land Over Landing's input. Your comments will be taken into consideration as further plans and actions are undertaken for the responsible use and management of the Pickering Lands.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

c.c. Office of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister

The Honourable James M. Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, P.C., M.P.
Outremont

The Honourable John McCallum, P.C., M.P.
Markham–Unionville

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Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Dr. Colin Carrie, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

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Papineau

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Saanich–Gulf Islands

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Pickering–Scarborough East

Ms. Olivia Chow, M.P.
Trinity–Spadina

Mr. David McGuinty, M.P.
Ottawa South