



News Release

For Immediate Release

Transport Canada takes balanced approach for management of the Pickering Lands under new Pickering Agricultural Lease Renewal Strategy

May 15, 2017

Pickering, Ontario

Transport Canada

The Government of Canada is pursuing a balanced approach to the management of the federally owned Pickering Lands to ensure that environmental and economic demands are met.

As part of a new updated Pickering Agricultural Lease Renewal Strategy, Transport Canada will begin offering agricultural tenants on the Pickering Lands lease terms for 10 years and will adjust agricultural rental rates, effective April 1, 2018. This updated agricultural lease model will provide lease holders on the Pickering Lands with better stability to make sound business decisions by providing longer tenures and fixed rental rates for their leased properties. The restructured lease agreements will also continue to ensure that the Lands are managed by the department in a financially prudent manner.

Transport Canada is notifying agricultural tenants on the Pickering Lands of the new leasing structure in spring 2017, so that lease holders can make necessary business decisions prior to implementation on April 1, 2018. The majority of agricultural leases and rental rates on the Pickering Lands have remained unaltered for more than 20 years.

The department's Agricultural Lease Renewal Strategy focuses only on agricultural lease agreements and a limited number of mixed-use farm properties on the Pickering Lands. There are currently no plans to change the leasing strategy for residential properties on the Pickering Lands.

Transport Canada is committed to an open and transparent process concerning the future development of the Pickering Lands Site. No decisions have been made on the development of a potential airport on the Pickering Lands.

Quote

"Transport Canada's updated lease agreements will provide agricultural lease holders with the ability to make sound business decisions as a result of longer tenures, while also ensuring a fair return to Canadian taxpayers by taking into consideration market rates for comparable agricultural lands."

Jennifer O'Connell

Member of Parliament for Pickering - Uxbridge

Quick Facts

- Transport Canada has retained 8,700 acres of the Pickering Lands for possible future development.
- Transport Canada has initiated an aviation sector analysis to obtain updated data on aviation demand and capacity and the work is expected to be completed in 2018.
- The decision to implement a new agricultural lease renewal strategy is not indicative of any potential decision regarding future development on the Lands.





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