

# PICKERING AIRPORT: FACTS

## What's this all about?

In 1972, thousands of acres of North Pickering farmland were expropriated for a never-built airport. Ottawa kept the land. Transport Canada has made no decision to develop an airport since. Any decision will be based on up-to-date data on aviation demand and capacity and a solid business case. Durham Region and the City of Pickering are promoting a new major airport here anyway.

## Would there be negative impacts?

Yes, many. Permanent loss of this prime farmland, costing our economy over \$240 million/year in lost opportunity. Years of large-scale construction and disruption. More traffic congestion. More urban sprawl and an airport wasteland. Harmful light, noise, water, and air pollution. Harm to wildlife and ecosystems. The adjacent national park's wildlife-protection mandate fatally undermined.

## Who would be affected?

Durham and eastern York Region residents. Today, commercial aircraft typically enter their "stabilized approach" landing at 3,000 feet, 10 nautical miles from runway touchdown. Landing gear and flaps are lowered and engine power is increased, which increases ground level noise. Based on the proposed runways' location and orientation, landing flight paths would be over Stouffville, Markham (incl. national park visitors and wildlife), Pickering, Ajax, Whitby (Brooklin), and Oshawa (airport).

**ANGRY? You can help stop this!**

**Tell your MP this is NOT the future  
you want for the Lands.**

## Know the Facts

**FACT:** There's no business case for an airport and no certainty of there ever being one.

**FACT:** There's no assurance that Pearson's ground lease would be altered to allow such direct competition so close by (it's currently prohibited).

**FACT:** Pearson's latest Master Plan shows no capacity crunch for at least 20 years. An approved 6th runway can be added after that, if needed.

**FACT:** Airlines hate duplicating services, so regular passenger service at Pickering can't be counted on.

**FACT:** The much-hyped "thousands of airport jobs" aren't assured. And when? Maybe in 20 years?

**FACT:** The touted "well-paying" jobs would more likely be low-paying contract jobs in cleaning, baggage-handling, and concessions.

**FACT:** There's no certainty that most Pickering residents would benefit financially. Ratepayers would end up paying for the facility's operating losses, as happens in Oshawa, Peterborough, Waterloo, etc.

**FACT:** Immense environmental obstacles stand in the way of efforts to scale up production of alternative jet-fuels to meet commercial demand. Aviation's business model of unfettered growth is almost certainly unsustainable.

**FACT:** Climate change will affect the policies and practices of all sectors of society. In the decade we have left to prevent a global ecological disaster, promoting a new airport is *denial of reality*.



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- Help us save these vital Lands!