

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transportation
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Subject: Pearson airport - jet noise traffic

Dear Minister Garneau,

Since February 2012, residents of Toronto, at considerable distance to Pearson airport, have been impacted by substantial aviation noise as a direct result of NAV CANADA flight path changes that affected arrivals operations at Pearson airport, over the skies of Toronto. These changes have created a highly concentrated flight path where none existed previously.

The impact to the citizens of Toronto have not gone unnoticed by local councillors, the mayor, and local MPs who are reminded constantly of the impacts to residents in the areas of health and quality of life.

Residents endure frequent sleep interruptions and sleep loss due to low and loud late-night flight traffic on a steady basis, through all hours of the night-time sleep period, and substantial impact between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to approximately 12:30 a.m., and often times beyond. These hours of sleep impact are affecting residents of Toronto, both young and old, the healthy and the sick, and some residents dealing with severe illness.

In addition to sleep loss impacts, many residents are no longer able to enjoy their homes or neighbourhood, far from this airport, due to the constant noise impact from Pearson airport operations over their homes and neighbourhoods – a highway in the sky. Additionally, we see concerns for residents being able to perform their job function in an efficient or safe manner, affecting the productivity of many, and untold safety concerns for other residents due to sleep loss.

NAV CANADA claims that there was sufficient notification to the residents of Toronto, detailing why the changes were made in the areas of safety and efficiency, with advertisements in local newspapers prior to the changes. This is utterly false and misleading, and any investigation to this claim clearly indicates there is no rational conclusion that residents would be subjected to a concentrated flight path with low flying jet aircraft through all hours of the night.

We, as affected residents that have so significantly been impacted by changes brought about by NAV CANADA, urge you to enact legislation to set the mandate of this government-created private air navigation services provider, ensuring that there is complete accountability to the citizens of Canada with regard to flight path changes that affect citizens in such a negative and harmful manner. These measures and respective legislation must be taken sooner, rather than later, to address the current impacts in the skies over Toronto affecting so many residents.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

(name attached via email)

cc. Mayor John Tory