



December 6, 2015

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

Via E-Mail: marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Garneau,

On behalf of the Residents Air Noise Group of Oakville (RANGO), I wish to draw your attention to ongoing issues of aircraft noise in the GTA, the insouciant attitude of NAV CANADA toward finding workable solutions and missed opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a meaningful way.

In February 2012 NAV CANADA introduced new procedures for the Standard Instrument Departures (SIDs) and Standard Instrument Arrivals (STARs) at Toronto Pearson Airport. The changes were undertaken with virtually no public consultation and the resulting conditions have been the focus of considerable dispute for the past three years.

Following pressure from elected officials, pilots and residents' groups, the former Minister of Transport took an interest in the issue. She is on record in June of 2015 in describing the effects of the new procedures as a "disaster" (copy attached).

A new consultative process was introduced with the stated objective of mitigating air noise in the GTA. The Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) and NAV CANADA were directed to engage with local area municipalities and residents. Unfortunately the process is protracted and to date, no consideration has been given to initiatives developed by sources other than NAV CANADA staff. The next step in process is not scheduled until the end of 2016 and that is to include yet more consultation.

### **Missed Opportunities**

At the 2010 International Civil Organization (ICAO) Assembly, Canada agreed to produce an Action Plan on the reduction of emissions from international aviation. It was produced by Transport Canada and published in 2012 (TC 1004722). One of its three key measures, expected to have the greatest environmental impact, is identified as *More Efficient Air Operations*.

Efficient air operations designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include continuous climb to cruising level after take-off, continuous descent from cruising level to the final approach, and elimination of unnecessary track miles. None of the above are reflected in the STARs currently in use at Toronto Pearson, yet all are part of the alternate initiatives introduced by affected residents during consultative process noted above!

A great opportunity is being missed to assist in the global reduction of greenhouse gases and to begin to address the concerns of the residents of the GTA. Given Canada's recent participation in the Paris Conference on Climate Change we feel Canada's SIDs and STARs should be put under the microscope for detailed review.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you or members of your staff to explain our position in detail and offer informed solutions to the problems caused by NAV CANADA.

For the Residents Air Noise Group of Oakville

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cc: MP Pam Damoff, Oakville North Burlington  
MP John Oliver, Oakville