The following email was addressed individually to the 23 members of the 416 Liberal Caucus and sent between 11AM and 12Noon on Monday, June 8. The email contained the following attachments:

1. Letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, dated June 3, 2026
2. Letters to Minister Steven MacKinnon and to Minster Gregor Robertson, dated June 3, 2026
3. *Expanding Toronto Island Airport – Reality Check: Unanswered Questions*, a research brief, May 2026
4. Research Brief Executive Summary

Email subject line: Prominent Torontonians Question Island Airport Expansion

June 8, 2026

TORealityCheck

Expanding Toronto Island Airport

REALITY CHECK: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

●●, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

PETITION: Public Hearings on Any Expansion of the Toronto Island Airport

Dear ● ,

We are writing to you as a member of the 416 Liberal Caucus on behalf of a number of residents of Toronto who care deeply about the future of our city. It is far from clear that the proposed provincial takeover of Billy Bishop Airport makes sense for our city. The federal government has a central role to play in this discussion.

Attached you will find a letter delivered to the Prime Minister, signed/supported by 28 committed Torontonians, including 17 members of the Order of Canada and/or the Order of Ontario, three former Chairs of the Board and a past CEO of Waterfront Toronto, the tripartite government agency responsible for overseeing redevelopment of Toronto's Inner Harbour over the last 25 years.

As emphasized in the letter to the Prime Minister, our city's Inner Harbour is truly a crown jewel, one of our greatest civic achievements. It's a hugely popular place where millions of people go to be on the edge of one of the largest lakes in the world. This is an ongoing multi-billion dollar, city-building project, the successful result of half a century of sustained public and private efforts to turn a derelict industrial port into one of North America's most outstanding urban lakefronts. It's an integral part of Toronto's unique identity as a waterfront city.

Proposals to expand this airport for jets have resurfaced repeatedly over the years. Each time, they have been studied and rejected. Why should this time be different? The probable scale of the ultimate goal appears far larger than past versions. At what point does airport expansion begin to dominate, wiping out surrounding uses rather than coexist with them? That threshold matters. The long-term proposal raises many questions. The burden of proof on proponents must be very high. The People of Toronto deserve answers.

The Government of Canada has essential responsibilities over the Toronto Inner Harbour, the island airport and their future. Your government must decide whether or not to expand the airport and introduce jets. Members of Parliament have a primary responsibility to those who have elected them. That responsibility cannot be surrendered to the provincial government that is moving to assert sole control.

Before an irreversible decision is made to expand the island airport to serve jets, we call on your government to ensure that no changes occur on the lands of the island airport nor any change in the Tripartite Agreement governing the airport lands until Torontonians are properly consulted on a detailed, evidence-based, comprehensive long-term plan that will be publicly and fully debated, addressing the many essential unanswered questions being raised.

We welcome your government's promise of public consultations. The consultation process must be real – committed to full disclosure, holding open, fully informed and transparent public hearings on any such plan, including the trade-offs, size of expected infrastructure, land requirements, cost-benefits, timelines, and the current public uses to be sacrificed.

Not only does Toronto's Inner Harbour belong to today's residents but to future generations. The decisions made now will shape the city's relationship to the lake for decades to come. That is why this debate matters.

We look forward to meeting with you at your riding office over the summer to discuss these issues further.

Thank you

Yours very truly

for TORealityCheck

David Powell

96 Elm Avenue
Toronto, ON M4W 1P2
info@TORealityCheck.ca

Attachments

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