

I would like to thank Councillor Littley and Councillor Johnson for bringing this Motion forward tonight. I am especially appreciative to see that this Motion regarding the Pickering Airport Lands to be focused on due diligence and public consultation.

With that being said I believe that this issue needs to be reopened for debate within the public realm. There is a new term of Council and I feel it is time to hold a public consultation process regarding this issue, a potential airport in Pickering is far too important and affects everyone in this City.

While we are asking the Federal Government to hold an open and transparent process regarding the airport, the last position of Pickering Council opposed to an airport was in 1998 Resolution 212/98. Nine years is a long time to not to have open public discussion on such an important issue.

If we as a City are asking to be at the table as part of the Federal Process, The City of Pickering needs an official position on this issue, one that is based on full and open input from its community, its time to get off of the fence and do the same as what we are asking of another level of Government.

Each of us tonight I am sure have their personal opinion on this myself included, In fact 50% of Councillor lives in Ward 3 and knows what their neighbours who are directly impacted think, and I trust their judgment tonight, but what about the City as a whole, we need to hear how the residents whom each us represent feel and where they expect us to stand on such an important matter. My personal opinion is that I feel an airport in Pickering would be environmentally devastating and I therefore do not support it, however I was not elected to represent only my personal opinion but the opinion of those whom I represent.

The City of Pickering wants to be at the table with the Federal government on this issue than we must go there with the position of the people, and public consultation is needed to do so.

Mayor Ryan, I know that you have planned for 4 Town Hall meetings, which will visit each Ward. For the 4th meeting would you be willing to dedicate it to this issue specifically and hold it here at City Hall in order to accommodate the number of residents willing to come and speak?

As Council we are the closest level of government to the people therefore we need to hear how they feel on this issue and take that message to the upper levels of government on their behalf. What better time then now especially with a Federal Election looming.

Until such public consultation occurs I am willing to take the position in opposition to the proposed Pickering Airport for reasons I have described above. Therefore I would like to add an amendment to this Motion, which will include reaffirming resolution # 212/98, which describes Pickering's official position of opposition of the proposed Airport, and will read as follows;

Now therefore the Council of the City of Pickering
Reaffirms its support for Resolution # 212/98, #172/04 on December 20, 2004, #207/05 on November 21, 2005 and Resolution #84/06 on June 19, 2006; in addition, the City urges the Federal, Provincial and Regional Governments to support the following;