

**Office of the Regional Chair and CEO  
The Regional Municipality of Durham**



# **Statement**

## **from the Regional Chair**

14 July 2015

### **Minister Raitt Announces Next Steps for Pickering Lands**

**Whitby, Ontario** – The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, yesterday met with municipal leaders, community and business stakeholders at the Region of Durham Headquarters to announce the Government of Canada’s next steps regarding the federal Pickering Lands, including a potential airport.

On July 18, the Canada Gazette will publish the proposal for a new regulation to designate the Pickering Airport Site and accompanying Airport Zoning Regulations. There will be a sixty day consultation period for comments on these Regulations, after which federal officials will analyze public input and feedback prior to making a final decision.

The Minister also announced the pending appointment of an independent advisor to examine the potential economic uses of the 9,600 acres of retained lands. The advisor will meet with those in the public and private sector who are interested in the economic development opportunities and will report back to the government within a year. Transport Canada will also undertake an assessment of the future aviation needs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and identify any shortfalls in the system of airports.

“We’re pleased that the Government of Canada is moving forward with concrete plans on the next steps on the management of the federal lands in Pickering”, said Regional Chair and CEO Roger Anderson. “We’re excited that the focus is on identifying investment opportunities, economic development, and the potential for thousands of jobs in and around a new airport. These jobs will allow Durham residents to stay in Durham instead of commuting outside of the Region. The appointment of an independent advisor later this month will keep the process moving forward in a timely manner and ensure that infrastructure is based on a solid business case”, said Anderson.

Interested residents and businesses can remain informed of the process through Transport Canada's website at: [hyperlink to Transport Canada page on Pickering lands](#)

- 30 -

Media inquiries:

**The Regional Municipality of Durham:**

Sandra Austin, Policy and Research Advisor

Phone: 905-668-7711 ext. 2449 or [sandra.austin@durham.ca](mailto:sandra.austin@durham.ca)

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