



October 18, 2022

Tim Singer  
Director General,  
Environmental and Radiation Health Sciences  
70 Columbine Dr. Way  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

**Greater Toronto  
Airports Authority**

P.O. Box 6031  
3111 Convair Drive  
Toronto AMF, Ontario  
Canada L5P 1B2

P 416.776.3000  
F 416.776.7746

GTA A.com

Dear Mr. Singer:

My name is Robyn Connelly and I'm the Director of Sustainability and Social Impact for the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTA A). In my role, I co-chair the Noise Management Forums - a series of working groups facilitating effective collaboration between Toronto Pearson and the community on noise management issues. Stakeholders include elected officials, community leaders and members of the public. It is in this capacity that I am writing to you.

I wrote to Health Canada on [September 21 2017](#) requesting that the agency, in its capacity of providing advice to the public and regulatory authorities such as Transport Canada, update the 2010 study: *Aircraft Noise in the Vicinity of Airports*. In your [October 13, 2017 response](#) you indicated that "while there are no immediate plans to update the 2010 publication, Health Canada scientists will continue to monitor the scientific literature on noise and health, and contribute to the development of relevant international standards, such as those produced by the American National Standard Institute." I responded to your letter on [September 28, 2018](#) with a request for discussion on relevant scientific research supported by Health Canada.

I am now writing to you again on this matter as it continues to be of concern for communities surrounding Toronto Pearson.

Although there have been health studies conducted in other areas of the world, residents affected by Toronto Pearson operations continue to call for updated, Canadian research.

The need for updated Canadian guidelines regarding the health impacts of aircraft noise was also reflected in the 2019 Transportation Committee's report to the Transport Minister [Assessing the Impact of Aircraft Noise in the Vicinity of Major Canadian Airports](#) recommendations 9 and 12a.



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**Recommendation 9 – World Health Organization Standards**

That Transport Canada assess how noise exposure forecasts are conducted and consider implementing and complying with the World Health Organization standard on noise around large Canadian airports.

**Recommendation 12 — Cooperation with Municipal, Provincial and Territorial Health Authorities**

That the Government of Canada work in cooperation with municipal, provincial and territorial health authorities to:

- a. support research to better understand the impact of aircraft noise-related annoyance on human health, including location-specific epidemiological studies as well as examining mitigation measures for individuals who are sensitive to noise disturbances;

The [Minister's response](#) to these recommendations included the following statement:

Transport Canada and Health Canada are considering the path forward on updating government guidance. This could include different levels of government.

The human health impacts of aircraft noise are a growing concern of community members affected by Toronto Pearson operations. For major Canadian airports such as Toronto Pearson to meet the growing demand for travel and cargo, while protecting the health and well-being of local community members, we need to rely on studies and recommendations specific to the Canadian environment.

I therefore once again call upon Health Canada to update its 2010 study and provide guidelines to airports so Canadian citizens and airports can understand and work together to address and mitigate any potential existing or future human health effects related to aircraft noise.

Thank you,

Robyn Connelly  
Director, Sustainability and Social Impact

Cc: The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport  
Karen Mazurkewich, GTAA Vice President Stakeholder Relations and Communications  
Lorrie McKee, GTAA Director Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations  
Members of the Toronto Pearson Neighbourhood Table  
Members of the Toronto Pearson Noise Accountability Board