



June 16, 2022

Honourable Omar Alghabra  
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VIA EMAIL

RE: Travel Delays at Toronto Pearson International Airport

The Durham Business Alliance represents the eight chambers of commerce and boards of trade of Durham Region and a combined membership of approximately 2,500 local businesses and organizations. We are writing to share our growing concerns on the current state-of-affairs at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

While this issue may be deemed a national concern, we believe the ongoing effects caused by the delays, and disruption in travel could have long lasting economic implications to the business community here in Durham. Our members rely on the quick availability of travel to support their businesses. Whether it be to travel across Canada for a business meeting, or to ship and receive necessary goods, the ongoing situation has negatively impacted the business community.

Pearson is an important driver of economic development in the Region. As a tourism destination, Pearson brings tourists to Durham, supporting our economic recovery and growth of small business. Anecdotally, we've heard passengers choosing to fly into and out of Buffalo to avoid these delays. Delays, which are impacting more than 50 per cent of total international arrivals.

The delivery of freight is also delayed, impacting local and national supply chains and causing Durham businesses to ship internationally within the belly of passenger aircrafts. As we emerge from the pandemic and given the aviation sector's critical piece of that recovery locally and nationally, we ask that the CATSA screening process be reviewed and streamlined.

We encourage the Federal government to enact measures to facilitate the change that is required at Toronto Pearson International Airport, including consideration to the 3-point plan recommended by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce: <https://chamber.ca/canadian-chamber-lays-out-three-priorities-to-help-air-travel-and-airports-grow-at-house-transport-committee/>



Thank you for the opportunity to represent the voice and needs of our members and stakeholders. With a streamlined and efficient CATSA process, Pearson can continue to be a positive first impression for travelers. The Durham Business Alliance looks forward to working with all levels of government to support the growth and success of businesses and organizations of Durham Region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Talia Lane  
President

Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade

Elizabeth Burley  
President

Brock Board of Trade

Sheila Hall  
Executive Director  
Clarington Board of Trade

Jason King  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

Jane Black  
President

Newcastle & District Chamber of Commerce

Karey Anne Large  
Executive Director

Scugog Chamber of Commerce

Rick Nihda  
Executive Director

Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce

Andrew Scuse  
President of the Board  
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

C.C.



Mr. Ryan Turnbull, MP, Whitby  
Mr. Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby  
Mr. John Henry, Regional Chair & CEO  
Mr. Don Mitchell, Mayor Town of Whitby