

October 4, 2018

The Honourable John Yakabuski
Minister of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Z8

RE: Planned transit hub at Pearson International Airport

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has supported economic growth in Ontario by advocating for business priorities at Queen's Park on behalf of our diverse 60,000 members, including local chambers of commerce and boards of trades in over 135 communities across Ontario.

The OCC would like to offer its support for the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)'s proposal to build a major transit hub at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. As Ontario's business advocate, we understand the importance of improving regional transit connectivity and reducing traffic congestion for greater competitiveness, economic growth, and quality of life in this province.

The planned facility, dubbed "Union Station West," would connect transit lines across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and provide direct access to Canada's largest airport. Its presence would boost productivity across the region, help Ontario businesses attract talent, connect residents with better jobs and services, and enable more efficient movement of goods.

As it stands now, Toronto Union Station is the region's only major ground mobility hub, meaning that trips between the city's suburbs often require connection through downtown Toronto. Pearson International Airport is ideally located to serve as the GTHA's second major hub, helping to relieve Union Station from congestion. The airport is situated between three of Canada's largest municipalities and in close proximity to numerous existing and planned transit lines. Moreover, the surrounding "Airport Employment Zone" is the second largest cluster of jobs in Canada, employing around 300,000 workers.

We look forward to continued improvements in transportation infrastructure across Ontario, including construction of Union Station West, as means to strengthen the business competitiveness and economic prosperity of our province. As always, the OCC would be happy to collaborate on policies and projects in service of that goal.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

cc:

Kinga Surma, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
Scott Thompson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation