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**Administration  
Portuaire  
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**For Immediate Release  
August 6, 2009**

## **Majority of Torontonians want pedestrian tunnel to Toronto City Centre Airport: Poll**

*Sixty-two per cent support tunnel concept*

TORONTO – An independent public opinion poll has found that 62% of Torontonians’ surveyed support the construction of a pedestrian tunnel to improve access to the Toronto City Centre Airport.

These are among the results of an annual poll conducted for the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) by the national public-opinion research firm Pollara Strategic Insights.

The 500-person survey was conducted July 6-7, 2009. In addition to probing opinions on the performance of the TPA, the survey touched on a wide variety of topics, including attitudes toward the revitalization of the Toronto waterfront, and the Toronto City Centre Airport (TCCA). Porter Airlines and several other aviation enterprises operate out of the TCCA.

In June of this year, the TPA reintroduced the decades-old tunnel concept given the apparent dearth of Toronto-area infrastructure projects which could benefit from the federal government’s stimulus funding program. A pedestrian tunnel underneath the Western Gap of the Toronto harbour would improve access between the mainland and the Toronto City Centre Airport for the commuting public. Medical patients involved with TCCA emergency medical evacuation flights would also be key beneficiaries.

According to the survey, 62% of respondents support the construction of a pedestrian tunnel. Only 21% of respondents are “strongly opposed” to the concept, while 10% are “somewhat opposed” to it.

“In light of Toronto’s need for shovel-ready infrastructure projects able to access federal stimulus funding and create local jobs, this is the perfect time to reintroduce the tunnel concept. The concept has four key drivers: TCCA passenger volume increased 100% between 2007 and 2008; a tunnel has practically no carbon footprint; it would last for generations; and, as we saw in the Pollara survey results released earlier this week, Torontonians want the TCCA to succeed as a commuter airport,” said Mark McQueen, Chairman of the TPA’s Board of Directors. “Given the long-term benefits of this type of infrastructure, we were naturally interested in what Torontonians had to say about the concept. So, we put the question to them.”

In addition to improving access to the TCCA, including a new \$45-million terminal currently being built by Porter Airlines, the pedestrian tunnel concept could also serve as a conduit for needed water main and utility upgrades to serve residents and businesses on the Toronto Islands. The TPA has

invited the City of Toronto to consider teaming up on the project in the coming weeks, given the City's pressing need to upgrade its core services to the Toronto Islands.

"The tunnel concept has been around since the 1930s when City officials first brought the idea forward to spur on economic development," said the TPA's Acting President and CEO, Alan Paul. "In 1935, *The Globe and Mail* editorial board termed the project 'inevitable'. The undeniable success of the TCCA, combined with the broad public support for the tunnel concept and the TPA's overall stewardship of the harbour, presents a unique opportunity to finally make it happen."

"Medical patients and organs for transplants arriving on medevac aircraft are sometimes transported in open boats over choppy water in very inclement weather," added Ken Lundy, TCCA Airport Director. "A tunnel would give paramedics and their patients safe, reliable, round-the-clock access to downtown Toronto hospitals."

The tunnel concept has received the support of several business and community groups, local politicians as well as Canada's largest daily newspaper, *The Toronto Star* ("For an island tunnel", June 8, 2009, pg. A12).

"The island airport has proven to be a success story for the City of Toronto," said City Councillor Karen Stintz. "[The tunnel] is a shovel-ready infrastructure project that will result in job creation as well as enhancing municipal infrastructure. The addition of a tunnel will result in improved access for commuters year round."

The Toronto Port Authority was incorporated on June 8, 1999, as a government business enterprise under the *Canada Marine Act* as the successor to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners. It is a federal public authority providing transportation, distribution, storage and container services to businesses. The TPA owns and operates the Toronto City Centre Airport, Marine Terminals 51 and 52, and the Outer Harbour Marina. The TPA also provides regulatory controls and public works services to enhance the safety and efficiency of marine navigation and aviation in the port and harbour of Toronto.

Further information about the TPA is available on the TPA website at [www.torontoport.com](http://www.torontoport.com).

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## Relevant Survey Results

**Details: Details** Pollara Strategic Insights surveyed a random sample of 500 City of Toronto residents by telephone between July 6-7, 2009; the margin of error is  $\pm 4.4\%$ , 19 times out of 20. It is the third annual survey probing Torontonians' views of the TPA, its performance and its strategic objectives. A key question posed by Pollara sought to gauge the potential support for the construction of a pedestrian tunnel connecting the mainland with the TCCA.

Q25N: As you may know, access to this airport is by a short ferry ride across a distance of 400 feet (or 121 metres) of water. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the construction of a pedestrian tunnel underneath this waterway to improve access to the Toronto City Centre Airport?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Total Support .....    | 62% |
| Strongly Support ..... | 34% |
| Somewhat Support ..... | 28% |
| Total Oppose .....     | 31% |
| Somewhat Oppose .....  | 10% |
| Strongly Oppose .....  | 21% |
| Don't Know .....       | 7%  |
| Refused .....          | <1% |
| N Size .....           | 500 |