

Toronto Port Authority turns a profit in fiscal 2008

TORONTO, July 23 /CNW/ - The Toronto Port Authority ("TPA") released its 2008 audited financial statements earlier today on its website. The audited financials show that the federal agency earned a profit during the 2008 fiscal year. The Statement of Revenue and Expenses shows an Income from Operations of \$2.251 million, with overall Net Income of \$863,000.

"The Toronto Port Authority has been working hard to deliver results for all Torontonians," said Alan Paul, acting President and CEO. "Even in these tough economic times, we have shown that the TPA can be a profitable driver of economic growth in the Greater Toronto Area."

The top profit contributor at the Toronto Port Authority was the Toronto City Centre Airport, which continues to see remarkable passenger growth as a result of the expansion of Porter Airlines. With the construction of a new terminal currently underway, and further improvements to Airport infrastructure, the stage is set for even further growth in fiscal 2009.

In anticipation of the TCCA's 100% year-over-year passenger growth, the TPA contracted in January 2009 to build a new, larger ferry. Construction of this ferry is well underway in Wheatley, Ontario, and is being financed by the TPA without any government or taxpayer assistance.

"The airport is a huge competitive advantage for the City of Toronto," Mr. Paul stated. "The Toronto Port Authority is committed to providing passengers with the best possible travel experience whether they are using the airport for business travel or for leisure."

All four of the Toronto Port Authority's operating businesses were profitable in 2008. In addition to the City Centre Airport, these include the Port's commercial operations, the Outer Harbour Marina and the TPA's modest remaining Property holdings. Despite the economic downturn, the Toronto Port Authority is cautiously optimistic about continuing this profit experience in fiscal 2009.

The Toronto Port Authority's financial stability ensures the agency will be able to continue its efforts to make the Toronto waterfront a clean and secure place to live, work and do business. Although the focus in 2008 was to turn a profit, the Toronto Port Authority was also actively engaged in cleaning up the waterfront, fighting pollution, and preserving natural environments in and around the Leslie Street Spit.

"Doing our part to make Toronto a better place is at the core of everything we do," stated Mark McQueen, Chairman of the Toronto Port Authority's Board of Directors. "But we also wanted to improve the TPA itself, a task that the new guard on the Board of Directors has taken to heart. Achieving the TPA's first-ever profit is one key example of this effort. Another is the fact that we've reduced the cost of the Board of Directors by approximately 33% in the past fiscal last year versus 2007. The TPA's critics wanted us to be profitable, and the Board and management are pleased to deliver in that regard."

"I am also proud to say that the TPA's cash and short term investments amounted to \$11 million as at December 31, 2008," added Mr. McQueen. "In

addition, the TPA would be delighted to receive the \$12.3 million in overdue Settlement Payments, Harbour User Fees and interest that the City of Toronto has withheld over the past number of years. With these additional funds, the TPA could further improve Toronto's harbour operations, its port facilities and security infrastructure. The TPA has already agreed to pay to the City of Toronto approximately \$5.5 million in payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, consistent with the recommendations of the federal PILTS Dispute Advisory Panel Report, released in early 2009, with these payments-in-lieu-of-taxes having been offset against additional debts owed to the TPA by the City."

Along with bringing an increased business focus to the Authority, the TPA remains committed to continuing its advancements in community outreach and engagement.

"Two of the Toronto Port Authority's highest priorities are transparency and accountability," added Mr. McQueen. "The majority of the Board continues to put its energies into prudent management and oversight so as to ensure that the Toronto Port Authority can continue to improve its services to stakeholders and the public at large. With the input of the harbour's business and residential communities, the Toronto Port Authority is looking forward to improving its operations further, despite the current economic downturn."

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