

Office of the Honourable Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

December 3, 2019

Dear Minister Garneau:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management team at PortsToronto, we would like to formally congratulate you on your re-appointment as federal Minister of Transport.

As always, we would like to acknowledge the guidance provided by the Transport Canada team in supporting PortsToronto on many of our key initiatives and wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with update on some of the key projects that we have been working on as they relate to Billy Bishop Airport, the Port of Toronto and our ongoing efforts in sustainability.

### **Billy Bishop Airport Master Plan**

On November 18, we were pleased to release the [2018 Master Plan for Billy Bishop Airport](#), which sets priorities to continue to build on many of the improvements Billy Bishop Airport has made in the last five years, as well as a framework for continued improvement and mitigation efforts related to concerns with noise, traffic and emissions.

A comprehensive consultation and stakeholder engagement process was a major component of the Master Plan planning process and we are proud to confirm that this included more than 90 meetings with members of the community, government officials, agencies including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and airport stakeholders and three public meetings. The process also included a 60-day public comment period, during which time, members of the public could review the draft document and submit comments for consideration in the final report.

### **Billy Bishop Airport to Convert Marilyn Bell I Airport Ferry to Electric-Power**

As you are aware, last week we announced that the airport's *Marilyn Bell I* passenger/vehicle ferry will be converted to electric-power. This innovative retrofit represents a unique technological advancement in the airport's fleet as the vessel will be the first 100 per cent electric lithium-ion powered ferry in service in Canada.

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In compliance with our organization's Sustainable Procurement Policy, three Canadian companies that share our vision for sustainable operations have been selected to collaborate on completing the ferry retrofit. As developers of the winning concept and proposal, St. Catharines-based leaders in marine electrical engineering Canal Marine & Industrial Inc. (CANAL) are the prime designers for this project. On board as the project naval architect is Concept Naval, Quebec-based naval architects and marine engineers, recognized for their innovative and customized solutions in Canada's shipbuilding industry. We also engaged Nova Scotia-based E.Y.E marine consultants to assist with the implementation of the project.

We are proud of this initiative in sustainable transportation infrastructure that will reduce PortsToronto's overall emissions, which is a significant step toward our organization's environmental objectives and in support of the Canadian Government's 2030 emission reduction target.

### **PortsToronto Seabin Pilot Program**

Last summer, PortsToronto's Outer Harbour Marina became the first commercial installation of Seabins in Canada. These floating trash bins have the capacity to collect upward of 4 kilograms of debris in one day, filtering as much as 1.4 metric tons of trash per year, collect single use plastics, including microplastics as small as 2 millimeters, and contain a filtration pad that absorbs hydrocarbons.

Following the success of the Seabin Pilot Program at the marina, in October, we announced the launch of phase two of the project, which included the deployment of two additional Seabins in the York Street Slip in Toronto's harbour. To ensure that the Seabins also serve a research and education function, we have taken the added step of partnering with the University of Toronto Trash Team on a student-research project led by Dr. Chelsea Rochman, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. As part of this collaborative initiative, students from the Rochman Lab collect and analyze the plastics and microplastics captured by the Seabins to determine the origination of some of these materials. This process helps to better inform the Trash Team's solutions-based research and community outreach program which ultimately seeks to increase waste literacy and prevent plastics and microplastics from entering waterways in the first place.

### **The Port of Toronto**

While the year isn't quite over, projected tonnage data for 2019 shows another strong year with approximately 2 million metric tonnes of cargo moved through the Port of Toronto. To date in 2019, we have seen 182 vessels offloading a range of bulk and general cargo products and are expecting 11 more ships by end of year.

With 36 cruise ships calling at the Port of Toronto in 2019 – more than double the number seen in previous years – we are pleased to highlight our busiest year on record in cruising. Over the course of the summer and fall, approximately 12,000 cruise ship passengers visited the city, further contributing to Toronto's booming tourism industry.

**Award Recognition**

In June, PortsToronto was honoured by the Canadian Public Relations Society with the Gold Award of Excellence for the 2018 Sustainability Report, which serves to generate awareness amongst our community, business and government stakeholders regarding our sustainable initiatives, accomplishments and future targets.

In November, PortsToronto was announced as the recipient of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority's Living City Impact Award in the *Healthy Rivers & Shorelines* category for our efforts to keep Toronto's harbour and waterfront clean through initiatives such as dredging, the Seabin Project and our involvement in the annual Toronto Island *Clean Water Our Future* clean-up. In addition, the Outer Harbour Marina was awarded the Robert Eaton Environmental Award for the Seabin Pilot Project in late November.

We certainly look forward to our continued work together with you and your team and will be in touch to set up a briefing in the coming weeks.

Congratulations again on your re-appointment.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Wilson  
Chief Executive Officer



Robert Poirier  
Chair of the Board

Cc: Marc Roy, Chief of Staff, Transport  
Christopher Berzins, Director of Policy and Parliamentary Affairs, Transport  
Emilie Simard, Director of Communications, Transport  
Miled Hill, Air Policy & Public Appointments, Transport  
Jean Proulx, Policy Advisor, Transport