

A question for MP Dzerowicz:

As Chair of the Toronto Caucus, City of Toronto Councillors have come out in opposition to what they believe is an overreach by the provincial government. What is the Toronto Caucus advising Prime Minister Carney about the future of Billy Bishop and where the federal government should land on this?

MP Julie Dzerowicz:

So the first thing I would say is that there are 23 federal Members of Parliament here in Toronto.

We have been the biggest champions for the City of Toronto at the federal level over the last 11 years and we have showcased that through historic investment in housing like 72 Perth Avenue, in public transit and infrastructure. The second thing I would say is that for almost 30 years all three levels of government have heavily invested in the waterfront. We've created a new park, we're investing in transit, we're creating affordable housing.

We've created, based on a principle of balance of use, all three levels together have built an incredible waterfront. The third thing I would say to you is right now there is no plan that has been presented to actually do any sort of an expansion at Billy Bishop Airport. What has been proposed and what is legislated for safety reasons is we actually have to ensure that there is a proper extension of the runway in order to meet international safety standards.

Now, there is provincial legislation that is before the provincial legislator right now. Assuming that passes, my understanding is that it would be the province that would take over the city portion of the tripartite agreement that governs Billy Bishop Airport. Now, we anticipate that that's going to take place.

We believe as Toronto caucus members, the City of Toronto and citizens always should have a voice at the table, always should be part of deciding what will happen to any part of Toronto that includes Billy Bishop Airport. So, should a plan be presented around any type of expansion, it requires all three parts of the tripartite agreement, parts Toronto, a federal agency, Transport Canada, which is federal, as well as whether it's the city or the province to actually unanimously make a decision around any operating expansion around Billy Bishop. Again, no plan has been presented.

The other thing that has been articulated very clearly by our Minister of Transportation is that there has to be meaningful consultations with Torontonians, with all key stakeholders, community groups and Indigenous groups, again, should a plan be put forward. Thank you.

A question for MP Dzerowicz:

Just to follow up on that, because the legislation eliminates Toronto from the tripartite agreement, so the question directly to you as Chair of the Toronto Liberal Caucus is, do you support an expansion of Billy Bishop Airport?

MP Julie Dzerowicz:

So, right now there is no plan that is before us.

I will not comment on anything that is hypothetical.

Whether the City of Toronto should always have a voice as part of our consultations in anything that happens, we believe that it's important for them to have a voice at the table, absolutely.