

**Toronto
Port
Authority**



**Administration
Portuaire
de Toronto**

**For Immediate Release
January 21, 2009**

Toronto Port Authority Takes Steps to Improve Service and Accountability

New ferry will improve passenger and vehicle service

TORONTO – The Toronto Port Authority (TPA) today announced plans to acquire a new, larger passenger and vehicle ferry to meet the growing travel demands at Toronto City Centre Airport (TCCA). A contract with a Canadian-based shipbuilder will result in the construction of a new 200 passenger ferry and improved passenger flow to and from the airport. An interruption in ferry service this past weekend due to unscheduled maintenance of the current ferry, TCCA1, forced hundreds of passengers onto the open decks of the TPA's 1950s back-up ferry.

“It is the TPA's responsibility to deliver passengers to the TCCA efficiently and safely, and in anticipation of the expanding Porter services over the next two years, adequate and reliable ferry service is crucial,” said Alan Paul, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the TPA. “According to a report prepared by an expert industry consultant, our existing ferry service will become a ‘critical issue’ in 2009 given the increased Porter flight routes and the impact this will have on peak ferry service.”

At a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 4, 2008, the Board unanimously approved the engagement of a Naval Architect to prepare the necessary drawings for a new ferry. On December 23, 2008, the Board of Directors approved TPA management's recommendation that the construction of a new, larger ferry was required due to a number of considerations, including the rapid increase in passenger traffic at the TCCA, the lack of an effective back-up ferry to TCCA1, and TCCA1's mandated safety review drydock in 2011. Earlier today, the Board of Directors took the additional step of voting to proceed to the contracting stage for the previously-approved larger ferry. Launched in 2006, TCCA1 is in use seven days a week, 19 hours per day, and will ultimately replace the current vintage back-up ferry.

“According to a 2008 POLLARA public opinion poll, Toronto residents are largely supportive of making improvements to the TCCA, and the TPA is duty bound to keep up with the growing needs of the TCCA and its users,” said Mark R. McQueen, newly elected Chair of the TPA Board of Directors. “In part due to Porter's tremendous success, we expect the TPA to be profitable on an operating basis in 2008 for the first time since its creation in 1999. In the current economic environment, I understand that the jobs associated with the ferry construction

and the additional Q400 aircraft currently being built for Porter Airlines at Bombardier's Downsview plant are welcome news.”

The Board is also taking steps to further its accountability to the community for the operations of the TCCA with a planned public consultation in February on noise levels associated with the TCCA. In response to the concerns of some residents, the TPA has embarked on a Noise Management Program that should help mitigate ambient noise that may affect the quality of life of residents living near the TCCA. The first public consultation was held on November 25, 2008. At this second meeting, TPA management will release details of a study relating to Q400 aircraft noise levels.

At its meeting earlier today, the Board of Directors also formally received the written recommendation of the Dispute Advisory Panel (DAP) for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILTs) that was referred to the DAP by the City of Toronto. The Board will carefully review the recommendation and report its intentions on the matter shortly. “It has always been the TPA’s intention to pay a PILTs amount to the City of Toronto, provided that it is fair and reasonable” said Mr. Paul. “We are grateful to now have the DAP’s recommendation in hand to guide us.” The written recommendation has been posted on the TPA website for the review of interested stakeholders. A brief backgrounder on the DAP’s recommendation shall be produced shortly and posted on the TPA website.

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.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Alan J. Paul
Toronto Port Authority
(416) 863-2003