



Envision Edmonton Opportunities Society

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July 29, 2010

Mayor Stephen Mandel
And City Council
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Sir:

Re: Petition to the City of Edmonton concerning the City Centre Airport

I am writing to you regarding media reports indicating that the City intends to proceed with closure of runway 16-34 in the next week. As you are aware, since the end of June, Envision Edmonton has been engaged in collecting signatures on a petition that would require a plebiscite on the issue of closure of the City Centre Airport during the upcoming civic election. Based on the number of signatures collected to date, Envision Edmonton is confident that it will have collected the required number of signatures and be in a position to file the petition with the City by the end of August.

In light of this, I am extremely surprised that the City would proceed with closure of runway 16-34 prior to the petition being filed and prior to any plebiscite arising from the petition. Regardless of your personal views on the issue of closure of the City Centre Airport or the views of other members of City Council, I expect that you and the rest of City Council would all agree that respect for the democratic process is of paramount importance.

Closure of the City Centre Airport raises some serious concerns:

1. Envision Edmonton has received overwhelming feedback from Northern Alberta communities to the effect that they are opposed closure of the City Centre Airport.
2. Section 12 of the Canada Health Act states that the primary objective of Canadian Health Care Policy is to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well being

of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers. Closure of the City Centre Airport will have a profound impact on Medevac services and clearly does not serve the objectives of the Canada Health Act.

The City should at least wait for the outcome of the democratic process before taking steps in furtherance of closure of the City Centre Airport. Recent Environics data indicate that 74% of Edmontonians polled support having the citizens determine the future of the Edmonton City Centre Airport.

Given the foregoing, I am requesting that you reconsider your decision to proceed with closure of runway 16-34 next week and instead defer closure of runway 16-34 until the democratic process has run its course. In this regard, the time frame involved is only a matter of a few months. From what I understand, there are no immediate plans to develop the City Centre Airport lands. As such, a delay of a few months in closing runway 16-34 would not have any impact on the City's plans. On the other hand, proceeding with closure of runway 16-34 at this time demonstrates a complete disregard for the democratic process.

Yours truly,

Envision Edmonton Opportunities Society

Per:

Charles Allard