

# Residents question Pickering airport e-mail

*Correspondence indicates three runways, \$2-billion cost*

Apr 29, 2011 - 12:32 PM

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PICKERING -- While residents and local politicians are questioning a recent construction update regarding an airport in Pickering, the local Conservative election candidate says it doesn't mean it's a go.

The federal government expropriated land in north Pickering for a possible airport in 1972 but no decision has been made.

Construction data service, Reed Construction Data, sent out e-mail alert on April 18 specifying a Pickering airport would include two 3,000-metre long east/west runways and a shorter cross-wind runway that angles from northwest to southeast.

"The airport will handle approximately 10,000,000 passengers," the e-mail stated, which also estimated the cost to be around \$2 billion.

The e-mail ended up in the hands of local residents and Ajax-Pickering Liberal incumbent MP Mark Holland.

Mr. Holland said in a press release this e-mail is alerting the development community to possible tender schedules for the airport.

"Is it any wonder that the community is up in arms by evidence that developers may have been tipped off on a decision in order to avoid public backlash during the current federal election?" he said.

Conservative election candidate Chris Alexander said in a letter posted on his Facebook page the e-mail does not mean an airport is going ahead.

"The Pickering airport remains strictly a proposal, as it has ever since a Liberal government expropriated the land from us in 1972," he wrote.

He also assured readers, "I am absolutely opposed to the construction of an airport."

Transport Canada communications adviser Pamela Mintern said in an e-mail, "The needs assessment study has been completed and the government is in the process of completing its due diligence with regard to this study."