

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
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March 26, 2019

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**The Honourable Marc Garneau, PC, MP
Minister of Transport
Place de Ville, Tower C
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5**

Dear Minister Garneau:

Ontario is deeply concerned by the recent surprise announcement of your intent to amalgamate the Oshawa and Hamilton Port Authorities.

There is simply no evidence to give reason to believe this can possibly meet your stated goals of strengthening Ontario's supply chain and improving port efficiencies and planning in the region. Since the proposal was announced on February 5, 2019, your government has not provided any meaningful explanation, context or business case for the amalgamation. There is no evidence of any studies, reviews or rationale to support the amalgamation.

This surprise announcement raises many unanswered questions:

- How will the loss of local control over the port impact jobs in a community that is already affected by job losses in the auto industry?
- What is the business case for the amalgamation?
- What voice will local communities have with an amalgamated authority?

Our government is deeply concerned about the lack of meaningful engagement with the communities and stakeholders that would be impacted by the proposed amalgamation. Ontario calls on Transport Canada to engage in a more robust, open and transparent consultation with impacted stakeholders – primarily in the community and including the Ministry of Transportation – so we can all provide informed responses to the proposal. And, as a prerequisite to holding a meaningful consultation, I also ask that the draft Letters Patent for the new combined Port Authority be made public prior to the commencement of consultations.

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I am eager to discuss these topics with you in more detail.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Transportation

- c. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
His Worship Fred Eisenberger, Mayor of Hamilton
His Worship Dan Carter, Mayor of Oshawa
John Henry, Durham Regional Chair