

February 22, 2002

**TO: Mayor Mel Lastman**

**RE: Mr. Bob Richardson – Regional Airline Holdings Inc.**

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I was deeply disturbed and puzzled by your defense of Mr. Bob Richardson and his involvement with Regional Airline Holdings Inc. at the Council meeting of Feb. 13-15, 2002.

As you are well aware, the future of the Island Airport is a major issue facing the City. Regional Airline Holdings' effort to develop the airport makes it a significant player in this issue. As the president of AFRM2, Mr. Bob Richardson has been a proponent of Regional Airline Holdings' effort to develop the airport.

At Council, you presented a vague and confusing defense of what is clearly a conflict of interest. It is not enough that you simply declare a conflict of interest. What you appear to be missing here, Mr. Mayor, is that Mr. Bob Richardson, the president of AFRM2, is openly promoting a position that requires action by the City of Toronto while he is also an employee of the City of Toronto. To make it even more clear, Mr. Mayor, he is being paid to advocate a position that will come before the City of Toronto, while he is a paid employee of the City. Mr. Mayor, this cannot be rectified by you simply declaring a conflict of interest.

Mr. Mayor, under your leadership, the Office of the Mayor of the City of Toronto has been ridiculed at the municipal, provincial, federal and even international level.

Mr. Mayor, your administration has wallowed in conflicts of interest, incompetence and outright buffoonery long enough. I call upon you, as the Mayor of this City, to deal with this outrageous conflict of interest. Mr. Richardson should be given seven days to either resign from his dealings with Regional Airline Holdings Inc. or leave your office. If he fails to do so, he should be dismissed from the City.

I hope that you will deal with this in a quick and positive fashion. However, please be advised that if no action is taken within seven days, I will be contacting the City Solicitor and the Attorney General of the Province of Ontario and asking them to deal with this matter.

May I please hear from you immediately.

Sincerely,

Michael Walker  
Councillor - Ward 22

Cc// Members of Toronto City Council  
Globe and Mail, attn: John Barber