

Lisa Rait, Transport Minister re Fill Operation and Burlington Airport

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Raitt says transport minister role well within her skill set



Lisa Raitt

File photo by Eric Riehl/Metroland West Media Group

Halton MP Lisa Raitt was appointed as Canada's transport minister Monday.

Milton Canadian Champion

By [Julia Le](#)

The rail disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec will be Lisa Raitt's primary focus over the next little while as she steps into her new role as Canada's transport minister.

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The Halton MP, who was chosen by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as part of a wider cabinet shuffle yesterday, said she will head to the small town tomorrow to meet with the community and learn more about the investigation into the derailment that took place earlier this month.

But right up there among her list of priorities, she told the Champion today, is an issue that hits closer to home.

She said she has already brought matters of the Burlington Executive Airport to the attention of Transport Canada.

As the MP for the area, Raitt said she has kept abreast of the dispute between airpark officials and the City of Burlington over fill operations.

She said she believes it could be a widespread issue across Canada when it comes to private operators and confusion over the rules and regulations that are in place.

“It’s (airpark) not a bad piece of infrastructure, but it has to be operated within a social licence,” she said.

Raitt said she hopes to open lines of “good communication” with airpark officials, residents who live in the area, and municipal and regional officials to discuss the Bell School Line airpark’s activities.

“It’s important to bring everyone together to work with each other,” she said.

In the meantime, she said she’s honoured to be a part of Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s cabinet.

As the former president and CEO of the Toronto Port Authority and the former labour minister for three and a half years, she said she believes she has the experience to succeed in the role.

“It’s very well within my skill set, moving goods and people,” she said, adding that she’s looking forward to her new responsibilities and bringing a Greater Toronto Hamilton Area perspective to her new role.