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Toronto City Council to Feds: "Don't toss Avro Arrow to the Curb"

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Toronto- City council unanimously passed a motion calling on the Federal Government to save the [Canadian Air & Space Museum](#) (CASM) Thursday.

"Today, Toronto City Council sent a strong message to the federal government that Canadian aviation, aerospace and military history needs to be cherished not tarnished," said Toronto City Councillor Maria Augimeri who moved the motion.

On Tuesday CASM was unceremoniously evicted from a factory considered the "birthplace" of the Canadian space program. The converted factory also housed a full-sized replica of the [Avro Arrow](#); a Canadian fighter jet widely regarded as the pinnacle of Cold War aerospace technology.

When news spread that CASM was being evicted to build an ice rink sports complex, criticism was swift and widespread among veterans, aerospace enthusiasts and average Canadians alike.

"Many veterans live near and see the Museum as an honourable resting place for their memories so for priceless artefacts like the Avro Arrow to get tossed to the curb it was as though their legacy was being thrown away" she added.

For many years, the Canadian Air & Space Museum was considered a jewel in the crown of the Downsview community. Downsview blossomed out of the wealth that the aerospace industry brought to the area. The entire local economy was once directly or indirectly linked to Canada's endeavours in aerospace.

Many of the aircraft that trained Canadian Airmen, such as the [Moth](#) and the [Chipmunk](#) have their origins in Downsview. Canada's first Satellite, the [Alouette I](#) was first assembled and tested in the building the Canadian Air and Space Museum occupies today.

"The Canadian Air & Space Museum has been a wonderful community partner and friend for over a decade and I am encouraged that Toronto City Council is taking a stand to preserve it," said Augimeri.

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