

Close call above Trudeau airport

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MONTREAL - Air Transat Flight 996, an Airbus 310 taking off for Edmonton from Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Dorval, "overshot its allocated altitude of 19,000 feet" around 11 a.m. on Monday, Air Transat spokesperson Jean-Michel Laberge said.

A traffic alert and collision-avoidance system in the Air Transat cockpit was apparently triggered by an Air Canada regional jet descending to 20,000 feet about eight kilometres away, Laberge said, and "we've confirmed that a loss of (mandatory) separation took place, to what extent we don't know yet."

The incident is being handled via an internal investigation launched after "the pilot-in-command descended to the correct altitude immediately," Laberge said.

"At no time was the security of the aircraft imperilled," he said.

Air Canada Flight 193, an ERJ-190, was understood to have been on its way from St. John's, N.L., to Ottawa at the time.

Air Canada, "as a policy," refused to disclose details, spokesperson Isabelle Arthur said.

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