

[Trudeau night flights might be rerouted](#)

Decision in June; Airport authority would abandon new flight paths

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Night flights over Cartierville, Saraguay, Laval and Lachine could be scrapped as early as next month, the chief executive officer of Montreal's airport authority said yesterday.

However, that would mean that night flights in and out of Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport would be concentrated once again over Dorval, Pointe Claire and St. Laurent, James Cherry said.

Cherry made the comments during a raucous meeting of Aéroports de Montréal.

The annual general meeting attracted about 200 angry residents from across the West Island, Montreal's Saraguay, Cartierville and Lachine districts and Laval's Île Paton.

Cherry said the airport authority will make its decision on night-time flight paths in June.

Among other factors, the decision will be based on sound levels on the ground, the number of residents affected by airport noise and the ability of pilots to follow the new flight paths.



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Between 20 and 25 flights a day take off from Trudeau airport outside the normal operating hours of 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Pointe Claire Mayor Bill

McMurchie said he wasn't happy with the prospect that the majority of the airport's night flights could be rerouted again.

"As mayor of Pointe Claire, I acknowledge that we live next to an airport," he said. "The dissatisfaction, however, should be distributed in an equitable fashion."

To reduce the number of people affected by night flights, a new flight path over St. Laurent, Cartierville and Saraguay was introduced in September 2006.

More recently, Aéroports de Montréal began testing another night-flight path over Lachine - edging close to Montreal West and Côte St. Luc, near the Meadowbrook golf course.

The two flight paths east off runway 06L have sparked widespread opposition, however. Both paths require pilots to make a sharp turn left or right at an altitude of 520 feet to avoid flying over residential neighbourhoods.

Yesterday's news that the flight paths' days may be numbered did not appear to divide residents who have united against the flights under the banner *Citoyens pour une qualité de vie*.

One after another, residents who turned up at the meeting at the ICAO Building downtown to protest against the night flights took turns calling for their end.

"I'm awakened almost every night and every morning at 5:30 a.m.," said Louise Robin, 74, a resident of a Cartierville seniors home. "I wouldn't wish them on anyone."

Lachine resident Paul Thibault told Cherry that Aéroports de Montréal has a "bad reputation" and people will not give up opposing the night flights.

"You can't force them on us," Thibault said. "If you try to, we will fight you. We need our sleep."

Sylvia Oljemark said the night flights have shattered the peace and quiet she once enjoyed in the Saraguay home her father bought in the 1940s.

"What about my acquired rights?" she asked Cherry.

Marlene Jennings, the Liberal MP for the riding of Notre Dame de Grâce - Lachine, who has taken up her constituents' cause, said the answer is not to "displace the problem from one sector of the city to another."

Residents are demanding a long overdue public hearing on the airport's expansion and its impact on surrounding communities, she said at the meeting.

Jennings said she has asked federal Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon to use his regulatory powers to suspend night flights, except for medical emergencies and adverse weather conditions, until a public hearing is held.

As the meeting drew to a close, Montreal city councillor Noushig Eloyan, who represents Cartierville and Saraguay and who sits on Aéroports de Montréal's noise-abatement committee, said she was concerned the issue could divide municipalities and their residents. She said she is encouraging residents to remain unified and continue the fight against night flights.

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