

# HERTÉ'S EDITORIAL

[www.c-q-v.org](http://www.c-q-v.org)

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## ADM IS NOT INVINCIBLE

Citizens for a Quality of Life (CQL) is a non-profit organization established on April 26, 1996 which groups together in a corporation all the people interested in **defending** and promoting the protection of the environment and the **social and economic well-being** of the **population** in the Greater Montreal Region.

Since the fall of 1997, citizens residing near Dorval Airport, now called Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau (PET), have been suffering the harmful consequences of the incomprehensible decisions taken by Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) to transfer international flights from Mirabel to Dorval. To achieve its goal, ADM did not hesitate, in 1996 and 1997, to mislead the media, the business community, the political circles and even the courts, by encouraging the belief:

- that the transfer of international flights from Mirabel to Dorval would only cost \$185 million;
- that the said transfer would only involve 20 additional flights for a total of 564 daily;
- that there would be a curfew between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except in case of an emergency;
- that charter flights and all-cargo aircraft responsible for most of the night flights would remain at Mirabel.

Today, the truth has caught up with ADM and we know:

- that expenditures have already exceeded \$2 billion rather than the \$185 million that had been announced;
- that the number of aircraft movements has reached 666 in 2007 instead of the 564 announced in 1997, and that number could almost triple and reach 1,480 per day without inconveniencing ADM;
- that there are now well over 65 aircraft movements during the night between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.;
- that all charter flights have been transferred to PET since 2004;
- that ADM is unobtrusively increasing the storage capacity at PET of the companies specializing in all cargo, primarily made up of freight handlers (Aeroterm, Purolator, FedEx, UPS, Air Canada Cargo, Excel Cargo, etc) to the detriment of Mirabel and the green spaces in Dorval, thus increasing the ratio of cargo being handled by ADM at PET from 23% in 1994 to 58% in 2007;
- that Mirabel airport, a prime example of efficiency, is being converted into a gigantic aquarium;
- that ADM has never undertaken a bona fide consultation during its 16 years of existence, which is in violation of the environmental clauses of its lease;
- that ADM has never undertaken a true environmental impact study in its 16 years of existence, despite the overwhelming evidence that its decisions adversely affect the **health of our citizens**, their **safety**, their **quality of life**, and the inherent **value of their real estate holdings**.

If you believe that citizens can do nothing regarding this scandal, you'd be WRONG! ADM has recently backed down in the face of strong protests, after having introduced or attempted to introduce, without consultation, new flight paths above Saraguay, Cartierville, Laval, Lachine, Côte-Saint-Luc, Montreal West and LaSalle. The movement to unify the opposition initiated by CQL during the past few months is at the heart of this historical retreat and is highly significant. However, this retreat is only temporary and we must continue to protest against this outrage and to seek support: six municipalities and boroughs nearby PET, two federal deputies and two provincial deputies have already given their support to CQL's requests.

If you would like to know the truth about this scandal, consult CQL's website [www.c-q-v.org](http://www.c-q-v.org), which will gradually expose, in the next few weeks, the underlying facts as well as the history behind this inconceivable saga. If you decide that you want to accelerate an end to these injustices, become a member of CQL by sending in the form from our website.