

Nov. 8, 2012 - letter from Carolyn Bennett, M.P., St. Paul's

A number of constituents have expressed health concerns linked to sleep loss and noted the impact of recent increased aircraft noise on the enjoyment of their homes. I am writing to update you on the changed flight patterns of aircraft at Pearson International Airport and the resulting increase in aircraft noise in St. Paul's.

I have submitted an Order Paper Question in Parliament on this issue and expect a written reply in the coming weeks. It demands specific information on public consultations, changes in air traffic volumes, other flight path options that were considered and mitigation measures that can be implemented to abate the increase in aircraft noise for St. Paul's residents. I have attached a copy of my Order Paper Question to this letter.

I have also met directly with NAV Canada, Transport Canada and GTAA officials to discuss the issue and convey concerns from local residents.

Although NAV Canada and Transport Canada held public consultation sessions about the new runway distributions in August and September of 2011, I informed representatives of both organizations that many of my constituents were unaware of these consultations and did not take part.

NAV Canada informed me that no flight arrival paths are below 3,000 feet, which is 1,000 feet higher than previous limitations, but explained that there is a noise impact when an aircraft is turning, when wind is over the airframe or when the gears are locking down.

NAV Canada has been working on the airspace re-design for the past four years and re-evaluates airspace design every four years. I have initiated a dialogue with NAV Canada and Transport Canada about measures that could be implemented prior to the next four year review to mitigate the aircraft noise in St. Paul's and they have committed to work on interim measures.

NAV Canada has also launched a new flight tracker system, which may have an impact on residents' ability to track aircraft, but the system is still in the implementation phase and may not be fully operational for another couple of months. There will be a series of public meetings linked to the implementation of this new flight tracker and my office is working with NAV Canada to set up a community meeting for St. Paul's constituents later this fall.

Representatives from both NAV Canada and Transport Canada have acknowledged the need to listen to communities and have committed to attending our public meeting.

Please be assured that you will be invited to this dialogue with NAV Canada and Transport Canada where you can express your concerns directly and where we can work together to identify measures to mitigate the impact of these decisions on St. Paul's residents.

Sincerely,

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., M.P.
St Paul's