

Direct Flight Montreal – Beijing

// In Support of Direct Flight

My name is Zheng Liu. I run a non-profit organization Triple-A International Center of Culture and Sports, an organization dedicated to culture and sports activities in Montreal.

First of all, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Economic and Urban Development and Housing for open up the discussion on direct flight from Montreal to Beijing, a proposal I am very grateful on both personal and business side.

On personal side, having to transfer via a third city has given me a lot of trouble. Three years ago, my niece came to Montreal to study in LaSalle College. Since she was travelling alone, both her parents and I worried for her transfer at Vancouver. In the past few years, my mother and my family members visited me. Every time they came, I would be worried, especially my mother, an old lady who does not speak English or French at all. I could not bear the thought that she might get lost in the transfer. Not to mention the extra hours we have to spend for the transfer.

My family members are not alone. For the two English universities in Montreal, McGill and Concordia, in nearly 4500 international students from Asia, more than half are from China¹. They have sent emails to fly-China-direct email address to express their ardent wishes in favor of the direct flight. Let along numerous exchange scholars in Montreal for both short term and long term assignments.

On business side, Triple-A started promoting Montreal for secondary school students' study destination in 2012. We have aggressively campaigned to Chinese parents and students that Montreal is an ideal destination to study abroad: the most successful city in bilingual education, affordable living expenses, many education institutions and multiple choices in terms of higher education. The plan is excellent except for one. Anyone coming to Montreal has to take at least one stop and transfer en route. This poses a big safety threat especially to the students traveling alone. For this single reason, Triple-A lost to Vancouver and Toronto where there are direct flights to China.

There have been plenty of requests for a direct flight Montreal-Beijing. I am sure that the direct flight will not only benefit ordinary Montrealers or Quebequois like me, but also people in nearby cities like Ottawa.

I'd like to quote the email message by a supporter from Ottawa to end this report:

¹ McGill data: <http://www.mcgill.ca/es/registration-statistics>, based on 2013 fall enrollment; Concordia data: <http://www.concordia.ca/about/fast-facts.html#tab0>, 2012/2013 enrollment.

“...the direct flight Montreal-Beijing is in essence, the direct flight between two nation’s capitals. The Trudeau airport is less than two hours driving from Ottawa, similarly there is roughly two hour drive from Beijing airport to downtown Beijing. Ottawa’s Chinese community is anxious for the direct flight...”.

By Zheng Liu