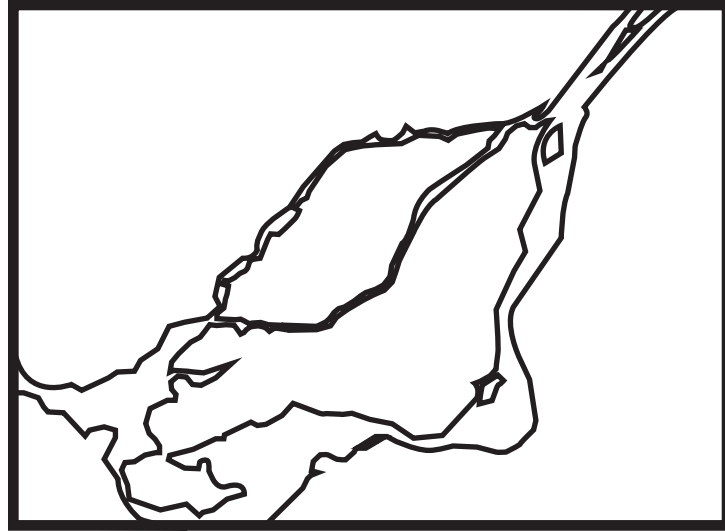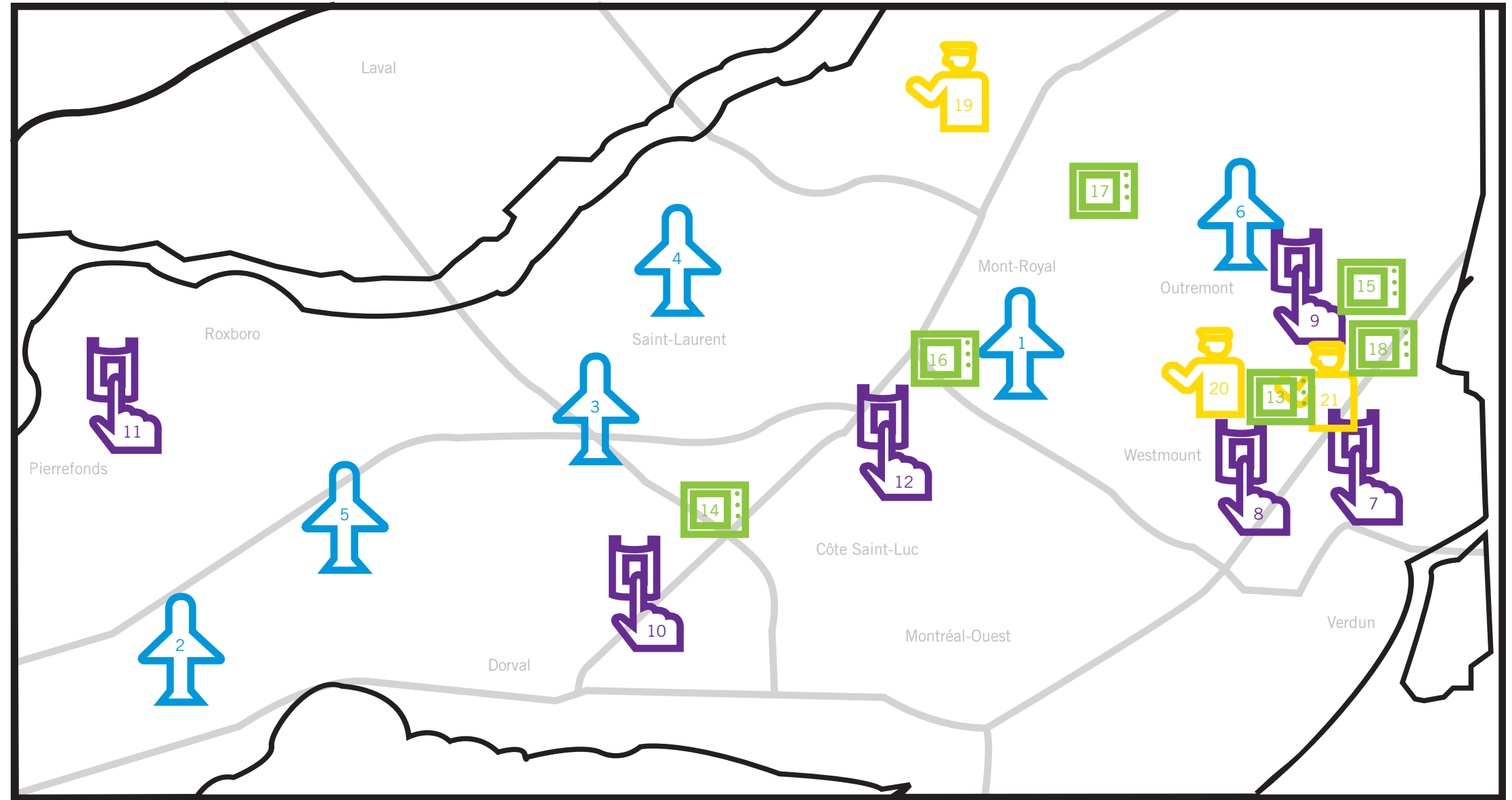# Montréal's Security Industries

This map shows us a few of the Montreal-area companies involved in the security sector, organized by theme: biometrics; simulation and 3D entertainment industry; unmanned aerial vehicles (drones); and security companies. The map demonstrates the breadth of these industries' reach in Montreal, and their significance for the city's economy. We include atypical companies, such as those making video games, to underline the diversity of techniques of violence and repression. High-tech military operations now rely on elaborate simulators for training purposes; similarly, private security companies are extensively involved in military operations and training. Biometric techniques used to identify and track people are developed in Montreal, and unmanned drones flying worldwide are made right here in Montreal.

UAVs

Unmanned Ariel Vehicles are a clear example of the ongoing blurring of warfare and law enforcement. In recent years, UAVs have become a central part of warfare by the US in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After being developed for war, UAVs are now being tested by police agencies in the US, UK and Canada. The "war on terror" has simultaneously been used to justify war abroad and political repression domestically, and UAVs are a key technology in expanding governmental powers on both fronts. As a centre for both the aeronautics and simulation industries, Montreal is home to many corporations that contribute to the development of UAVs, especially the capacity to control them remotely.

1. Presagis
2. Apollo Microwaves
3. Thales Canada
4. Meggitt Training Systems Canada
5. Top Aces
6. Xiphos Technologies

BIOMETRICS

Biometrics usually refers either to a "measurable biological [or] behavioral characteristic... used for automated recognition" of an individual or to the actual methods used for identifying individuals from these characteristics. The most common biometrics already in use include fingerprints and face, iris, voice, and hand geometry recognition. Walking styles, keyboard use habits, and other features said to be unique to individuals alone or in combinations are also used.
Biometric methods applied without the knowledge of an individual are of most concern; they are often used by watchdogs and others claiming "security" needs. Many methods have been developed separately by government, military, and private organizations, but these groups -- several of which are located in Montreal -- tend to share processes, research, and databases.

7. Excellium Technologies Inc
8. Gemalto Canada
9. Central Security
10. Voti
11. Memorec
12. Lockheed Martin

SIMULATION INDUSTRY

In a military and/or security context, simulation refers to the techniques and software applications used for complex modelling: generating and executing scenarios that involve human/crowd behaviour and other complex factors for the purpose of training and/or analysis. The simulation industry is closely associated with the 3D entertainment industry (animation, video games, film, etc.) because software development is driven by these various overlapping applications (or "markets"). Montreal is a well-known "international hub" for 3D animation, games and simulation. Technologies developed by small firms, and the firms themselves, are easily bought off by large companies, such as CAE. Montreal's 3D industry is a small and close-knitted world that is hard to distinguish from the military one.

13. Bombardier
14. CAE
15. Dassault Systemes
16. Embvue
17. Simthetiq
18. CM Labs Vortex

SECURITY COMPANIES

A large number of private security companies have offices in Montreal, and one of the world's largest security firms, Garda, was founded here. These companies provide armed personnel and armoured vehicles to protect the oil and gas, mining, construction and telecommunications industries, development organizations and NGOs, and even government agencies. These same companies provide the "security guards" we see in universities, businesses, and on the streets in Montreal. These companies make "safety" a commodity, and violence a source of profit. They are intimately linked to the industries they support and enable. Board members of Garda alone, for example, have corporate ties to telecoms firms, the Canadian government, the US military and Secret Service, oil and gas companies, venture capital firms, and weapons and aviation firms, among others.

19. ASIS
20. Securitas
21. Garda World