



May 5, 2026

Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA)

Re: Restrictions on the Transport of Cremated Remains in Carry-On Baggage

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Funeral Service Association of Canada, we are writing to formally express serious concern regarding the recently implemented screening guidelines that restrict the transport of cremated remains in carry-on baggage to containers of 350 ml or less.

This policy is deeply troubling for many families and individuals who are already navigating the emotional burden of loss. For a significant number of people, cremated remains are not simply personal effects—they hold profound spiritual, cultural, and religious significance. The requirement to divide or separate a loved one's remains to comply with a fixed volume limit is, for many, not only distressing but fundamentally incompatible with their beliefs and values.

Grieving families should not be placed in a position where they must choose between adhering to their convictions and complying with air travel regulations. The transportation of cremated remains is often part of an important ceremonial or cultural process, and any policy that disrupts this process risks causing unnecessary emotional harm.

It is also important to emphasize that placing cremated remains in checked luggage or shipping them via air cargo is not an acceptable alternative for some families. Concerns around loss, mishandling, or the fundamental belief that remains must stay under the direct care of loved ones make these options untenable in many cultural and personal contexts.

It is also concerning that frontline screening officers are finding these interactions difficult, as they are tasked with enforcing a rule that understandably causes distress and confusion among travellers. This suggests that the policy may not only be burdensome for the public but also challenging to implement in a compassionate and consistent manner.

While we recognize the importance of aviation security and the role that screening technologies play in maintaining safety, policies must also be balanced with sensitivity, practicality, and respect for diverse cultural and religious practices. If new scanning equipment presents limitations, it is reasonable to



expect that alternative accommodations or procedures be developed—ones that do not require families to compromise their dignity or beliefs. This could include the use of alternative screening methods, private screening arrangements, or clearly defined exemptions for cremated remains transported in good faith.

We respectfully urge CATSA to reconsider this guideline and explore more flexible, humane solutions. This issue affects people at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives, and a more compassionate approach would better reflect the values of respect, inclusion, and care that Canadians expect from public institutions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would appreciate any information on whether this policy is under review and what steps may be taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Pam Moss, Executive Director
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