

May 5, 2026

Transport Canada

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 respectfully request a review of current aviation security policies under the authority of Transport Canada that are affecting the ability of Canadians to transport cremated remains in carry-on baggage.

Recent screening limitations—reportedly tied to updated requirements and the capabilities of newer screening equipment—are having a significant and unintended impact on grieving families. In particular, restrictions that effectively limit the volume of cremated remains permitted through screening are creating situations where individuals may be required to divide a loved one’s remains in order to travel. For many, this is not only distressing, but fundamentally incompatible with their cultural, spiritual, or religious beliefs.

Cremated remains are not ordinary items. They carry profound emotional and symbolic importance, and their transport is often tied to deeply meaningful ceremonies, repatriation, or final rites. Policies that inadvertently require families to separate remains risk causing real harm at an already vulnerable time.

It is also important to emphasize that alternatives such as placing cremated remains in checked baggage or shipping them via air cargo are not acceptable options for some families. Concerns regarding loss, mishandling, and the belief that remains must remain under the direct care of loved ones make these alternatives untenable in many cases.

While we recognize and respect the critical importance of aviation security, it is equally important that regulatory frameworks remain responsive to their real-world impacts. When security measures—particularly those influenced by technological limitations—create barriers that affect fundamental human considerations such as dignity, grief, and religious observance, there is a clear need for reassessment.

We respectfully urge Transport Canada to:

- Review the current policies and directives that are leading to these outcomes;
- Consider the development of clear exemptions, alternative screening methods, or special handling protocols for cremated remains; and
- Work collaboratively with the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority to ensure that implementation reflects both security requirements and compassionate, culturally sensitive practices.

This issue highlights the importance of balancing safety with humanity. A thoughtful policy adjustment or clarification would go a long way in ensuring that Canadians are not placed in the difficult position of choosing between compliance and their deeply held beliefs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to engage further on this issue and would appreciate any information on whether these policies are currently under review.

Sincerely,



Pam Moss, Executive Director
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