

EGALE CANADA



TRANS TRAVEL TIPS

The most important thing to remember when you are travelling is . . .
you have rights!

SECURITY MEASURES:

- » Thorough searches, which include pat-downs and strip searches, are to be conducted by airport personnel of the same gender only. Based on your own comfort level, decide which gender you would like your inspectors to be in the event that this occurs, and be sure to communicate this clearly to airport personnel.
- » At present, there are no policies that provide for the option of a split search. However, in Ontario, a human rights precedent has been set that recommends police services offer trans detainees the option of a split search. If you would prefer a split search, you may attempt to request one and, if necessary, mention the decision of the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario in *Forrester v. Peel (Regional Municipality) Police Services Board*. However, be aware that there is no legal requirement for airport personnel to comply.
- » When selected for any additional screening, you may request that the screening be done in private. If you have a travelling companion, they may accompany you for the screening. If you are travelling alone, however, and fear for your safety in being inspected alone, a private screening might not be your best option.
- » For your own personal security, it is important to keep in mind the social and legal attitudes towards transpeople at your point of arrival. Heightened security measures mean that you will be under more scrutiny and this might jeopardize your personal safety at your destination. For information on trans rights around the world, visit www.egale.ca/trans.
- » Travellers to the U.S. from certain nationalities, regardless of citizenship, will be subjected to increased scrutiny. This means that mandatory full-body pat-downs and other extra screening methods will be imposed on Canadian citizens who are nationals of the 14 countries that the U.S. has named “Countries of Interest”: Afghanistan, Algeria, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Keep this in mind and arrive early to allow for the additional difficulties this may pose.

LUGGAGE:

- » Because of U.S. carry-on restrictions, which could become applicable in other places as well, keeping all of your luggage with you is impossible. Given that it is very important to declare any potentially prohibited items in your checked luggage, you may want to request to have your luggage screened privately if you are carrying items or clothing that you do not want revealed in public.
- » Any medication or medical equipment must be declared when going through customs. If you need to carry such materials with you on the plane, keep them in a bag rather than on your person and request a private inspection. In either case, it is advisable to have appropriate prescriptions or notes from physicians or therapists handy.
- » Because all luggage is going to be searched and all of its contents are subject to confiscation, until training in LGBTQ matters is provided to all airport personnel, it is best to keep your luggage contents to a minimum of what is necessary for your trip in order to avoid potential issues or harassment when you are going through customs.
- » Always keep in mind that your luggage may be lost or delayed, so if you require hormones or medications within 24 hours of your arrival, carry them with you.

MISTREATMENT AND INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR:

- » If at any time during an inspection or check-in you feel that you are being treated in an inappropriate or discriminatory manner, you should ask to speak to a supervisor immediately.
- » Feedback forms are available from security. Report misconduct and negative experiences, or positive experiences, to authorities in order to improve the system for everyone.

**Egale Canada is Canada's LGBT human rights organization:
advancing equality, diversity, education, and justice.**

www.trans.egale.ca

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