

For Immediate Release  
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## **Trans People Unable to Fly in Canada**

Alphabet Community Centre has issued an Air Travel Alert for all Trans people travelling on flights originating in Canada. ([www.acclondon.ca/air\\_advisory.htm](http://www.acclondon.ca/air_advisory.htm))

On July 29th, 2011 the Harper Government quietly formalized changes to the Identity Screening portions of the Aeronautics Act as follows:

5.2 (1) An air carrier shall not transport a passenger if

- (a) the passenger presents a piece of photo identification and does not resemble the photograph;
- (b) the passenger does not appear to be the age indicated by the date of birth on the identification he or she presents;
- (c) the passenger does not appear to be of the gender indicated on the identification he or she presents;
- or
- (d) the passenger presents more than one form of identification and there is a major discrepancy between those forms of identification.

Consequently (c) and (d) carry drastic consequences for a large portion of the population whose gender markers do not match their presentation on all or some of their identification. These individuals face a fine of \$5,000 for attempting to travel on a flight originating in Canada.

We call on the Government of Canada to remove "Gender" from the Aeronautics Act as it is superfluous to the security of our airports and air travel as well as discriminatory against a large portion of our countries population. The act leaves "Gender" up to the interpretation of the screening employee which leaves Trans people and androgynous individuals open to discrimination and harassment randomly while traveling.

Due to the enormous bureaucratic burden placed on Trans individuals to update their identification, the process is slow and tedious. In most cases there are years or indefinite periods of time where there is a "major discrepancy between those forms of identification" and the "the passenger does not appear to be of the gender indicated on the identification".

NDP LGBT Critic, Randall Garrison writes, "Recently it has been drawn to our attention that a new section, Sec 5.2(1)(c) of the Identity Screening Regulations under the Aeronautics Act, was implemented by your office this past summer. This new regulation reads "An air carrier shall not transport a passenger if the passenger does not appear to be of the gender indicated on the identification he or she presents." We are concerned that this section prohibits anyone who is a post-operative or non-operative transgendered person from boarding a flight in Canada.

Clarification of the potential impact of this regulation on the transgendered community is urgently needed. This is especially true in view of the potential violation of the right to freedom of mobility of all Canadians. Can you assure us that this new regulation does not discriminate against the transgendered community and will not prevent transgendered Canadians from flying? “ via NDP Dany Morin

A 17 year old student on Facebook wrote, “I'm going on a trip with school soon, but I'm already in stealth-Is there anything I can possibly do to help end this before I get confronted in front of my peers”. This girl has no ID that says she is female, but she goes to school as a girl and all her peers know her only as a girl. She doesn't know if she should stay home, or risk being outed by security.

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