

May 27, 2011

AmConsul Calgary

DEATHS: Disposition of Remains
(Northwest Territories)

Department of State - CA/OCS/ACS/WHA

Ref: 7 FAM 260

The Consulate General Calgary submits herewith a revised report on local regulations, prices, etc., regarding Disposition of Remains for the Northwest Territories.

1. **Maximum Period before Burial**

When death has been due to communicable diseases, such as bubonic plague, cholera, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, typhus or smallpox, burial must take place within 36 hours following death. This period may be extended, however, by obtaining written permission of the local Medical Officer of Health. Such permission will only be granted if all body orifices have been blocked with absorbent cotton and the body has been embalmed or enclosed in a metal or metallined coffin. There are no other regulations requiring burial within a specific period of time. Bodies may be stored in receiving vaults for any period of time, provided no offensive environment is created.

2. **Embalming**

Following are the facilities for embalming in the Northwest Territories:

Yellowknife Funeral Services Box 115 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1 Ph: (867) 444-5100 Manager: Bill Skentos	Inuvik Funeral Services Box 2164 Inuvik, NT XOE OTO Ph: (867) 777-4018 Manager: Michael Carruthers
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Bodies ordinarily are embalmed as soon as released by the physicians or court, although embalming is not mandatory for local burial unless remains are kept over 72 hours. Remains must be embalmed if shipped by common carrier. Bodies transported outside the Northwest Territories must be viewed by a Medical Examiner prior to shipment. The Examiner must

sign a document of release. If embalming is performed, it must be undertaken by a person who holds a valid Embalmer's License issued by The Northwest Territory Board of Health.

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3. **Cremation**

There are no crematoriums in the Northwest Territories. Only those bodies, as a result of accidental or unexplained deaths are shipped to the funeral homes at the following address:

- Connelly-McKinley, 10011- 114 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Telephone: (780) 422-2222
- Foster McGarvey, 10011 – 114 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Telephone: (780) 428-6666

Remains may be cremated by prior request of the deceased, or at the request of the immediate family. Immediate family preference takes precedence. Cremation must be undertaken in accordance with the Cemeteries Act and Regulations respecting the establishment, operation and Licensing of Crematoriums.

4. **Disinterment**

Disinterment may be ordered by a coroner or a court having jurisdiction. Normally the Local Board of Health must also be satisfied that the body or the coffin may not be in such a state of decomposition as would be offensive to those persons conducting the disinterment. Disinterment certificates must be obtained from the Division of Vital Statistics, Yellowknife, and must be signed by the Chief Medical Health Officer. Before the certificate can be issued, immediate family members must submit a request in writing to the Division of Vital Statistics.

5. **Caskets and Containers**

When the remains of a deceased person are to be transported out of the country or within the country, the remains are placed in metal, wooden or cardboard casket which are capable of being hermetically sealed and satisfy requirements prevalent throughout that area.

6. **Exportation of Remains**

A burial permit issued by the Provincial Registrar of Vital Statistics and a death certificate issued by the Coroner are necessary to export either a body or cremated remains. The cause of death must be stated on the certificate issued by the Medical Examiner. The funeral home usually obtains the required certificates. A body does not necessarily have to be embalmed if it is going to be transported within Alberta. The body must be embalmed if it is going to be transported to the United States via the Funeral Company's hearse or by common carrier from origin to destination. Most airlines now provide a heavy duty security pouch in lieu of the former wooden box in which the casket was previously carried; these usually are rented

from the airlines by the funeral home. If a body is going to be shipped to the United States, the standards of the receiving state must be complied with.

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7. Costs

A. Burial, Cremation:

Funeral costs vary considerably. The average cost is US\$5000 and up depending upon the type of casket chosen and other services provided. These charges are allinclusive, that is, the transport of the body locally, all documentation, services by a clergyman etc. They do not include a cemetery plot or transportation outside the immediate area (see note below). A cemetery plot, in perpetuity, can be obtained in Yellowknife for about US\$493. The cremation cost is approximately US\$2300-4500 and up for an adult person, and US\$0-444 for children between the ages of newborn and 10 years. Because the cremation must be done in Edmonton, there is an additional cost for the shipment of the body. Costs for keeping the cremated remains of a deceased person at crematoriums vary with the length of time that they are to be kept. Usually they can keep the cremated remains of the deceased person for 60 days without any charge.

B. Shipment:

Preparation of the remains by a funeral home for shipment to U.S. for burial is approximately US\$789. A reduction in costs is possible by having a funeral home in the United States make the arrangements with the Canadian funeral home. Bodies and ashes may be shipped by air to the United States using the services of one of several airlines operating between Calgary or Edmonton and various cities in the United States. The following costs and charges for shipment from Calgary and are based on a body plus casket weighing 330 lbs. (150 kg).

<u>FINAL</u> <u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>AIRLINE</u>	<u>COST IN U.S.</u> <u>FUNDS</u>
Boston	Air Canada	\$609.00
Chicago	Air Canada	\$609.00
Cleveland	Air Canada	\$609.00
Miami	Air Canada	\$675.00
New York City	Air Canada	\$609.00
San Francisco	Air Canada	\$527.00
Los Angeles	Air Canada	\$527.00
Seattle	Air Canada	\$527.00
Denver	Northwest Airlines	\$527.00
Dallas	Northwest Airlines	\$675.00

United Airlines fly from Calgary but does not fly from Edmonton. The body would have to be shipped to Calgary for transportation to Denver or Dallas.

Air Canada fly from Calgary to Denver via Toronto so their rate is much higher than United Airlines. We have not quoted Air Canada Calgary to Denver for this reason.

Cremated remains are usually sent by weight at the normal airfreight rate.

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8. **REMARKS:**

1. Charges shown are based on the exchange rate as of May 27, 2011.
US\$ 1.00 equals to Canadian \$1.00.
2. All fees are approximate.
3. Costs do not include transportation from remote areas to the nearest funeral home.
4. There will be additional 5% GST (Goods & Services Tax) on all of the services provided.

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