

May 27, 2011

AmConsul Calgary

DEATHS: Disposition of Remains  
**(Province of Saskatchewan)**

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 Province of Saskatchewan.

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**

All the major cities and towns in the district have facilities for embalming. Bodies ordinarily are embalmed as soon as released by the physician 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 (even within Saskatchewan). Bodies transported outside the Province of Saskatchewan must be viewed by a Medical Examiner prior to shipment. If embalming is performed, it must be undertaken by a person who holds a valid Embalmer's License issued by Saskatchewan Funeral Service Association, Province of Saskatchewan.

UNCLASSIFIED



### 3. **Cremation**

There are three crematoriums in Saskatoon, two in Regina, one in Moose Jaw, one in Prince Albert, two in Yorkton, one in Tisdale, one in Melfort, one in Clavet, one in Wadena, one in Wolseley, two in Lloydminster, one in Estevan, one in Wadena and one in Meadow Lake for a total of 19 in the province. Remains may be cremated by prior request of the deceased, or at the request of the immediate family. Immediate family preference takes precedence. Prior to cremation a registration of death and a burial permit must be obtained from attending physician and the local registrar for vital statistics. Authorization for cremation must be signed by next of kin or legally responsible person. Cremation must be undertaken in accordance with the Cemeteries Act and Regulations respecting the establishment, operation and Licensing of Crematoriums. The same type of casket used for interment (except steel) can be used for cremation and the body is not removed from the casket depending on local regulations. In some areas alternative casket arrangements are possible.

### 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, Regina, 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 the province. Such containers are readily available locally.

### 6. **Exportation of Remains**

A burial permit issued by the Provincial Registrar of Vital Statistics and a death certificate issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (Coroner) of the Province, 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 Saskatchewan. 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

## 7. Costs

### A. Burial, Cremation:

Funeral costs vary considerably. The average cost is US\$8,000-10,000 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 Regina for about US\$1183 and US\$740 for digging of grave. The cremation cost is approximately US\$517 for an adult person, and US\$148 for children between the ages of 6 and 10, and US\$49 for children under 5 years. Usually there is no charge for keeping the cremated remains of a deceased person up to 3 months. The cost of the urns for the storage of the cremated remains range from US\$98-2959. The Province of Saskatchewan can grant approximately US\$1972 for total funeral and burial expenses in cases where individuals die leaving no family or estate. This does not include a cemetery plot.

### B. Shipment:

Preparation of the remains by a funeral home for shipment to U.S. for burial is approximately US\$1300. 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 Regina or Saskatoon and various cities in the United States. The following costs and charges for shipment from Regina are based on a body plus casket weighing 330 lbs. (150 kg).

| <u>FINAL</u><br><u>DESTINATION</u> | <u>AIRLINE</u> | <u>COST IN U.S.</u><br><u>FUNDS</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Boston                             | Air Canada     | \$663.00                            |
| Chicago                            | Air Canada     | \$513.00                            |
| Cleveland                          | Air Canada     | \$513.00                            |
| Miami                              | Air Canada     | \$663.00                            |
| New York City                      | Air Canada     | \$663.00                            |
| San Francisco                      | Air Canada     | \$663.00                            |
| Los Angeles                        | Air Canada     | \$663.00                            |
| Seattle                            | Air Canada     | \$453.00                            |
| Denver                             | Air Canada     | \$603.00                            |
| Houston                            | Northwest      | \$603.00                            |

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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.