

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the matter of accessible transportation. My comments are related to travelling with life threatening food allergies.

Thankfully, I don't have a food allergy. However, I know many people who do. For 20 years I've experienced the challenges, the emotional fortitude, the fear, the extreme caution and the everyday worry this medical condition, acknowledged as a disability, presents. Not only to the people who live with the food allergy, but also to all the people who care about and share their environment with them. To me, that's what my submission is about. Demonstrating care and compassion for the health and wellbeing of fellow Canadians who live with food allergy. This can be achieved through **appropriate** accommodation amendments to Canadian transportation policy and procedure, especially those related to air travel where risk is considerably higher given limited access to medical care in the event of a reaction.

From the Ontario Human Rights Commission: An accommodation is considered **appropriate** to the extent that it respects the dignity of a person with a disability, takes into account individual needs, and promotes integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities as much as possible.

Against this framework, it's easy to agree that a person with a life threatening food allergy deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. A person with a life threatening food allergy deserves to be safe and feel safe. A person with a life threatening food allergy has the same right to travel as any other person. And the bottom line is, **appropriate** accommodations are required to create these conditions. This doesn't involve measuring particles of peanut or nut dust in the air. This doesn't involve examining air circulation systems. Rather, it involves consideration of the whole person and that person's right to be treated with **appropriate** respect arising from their medical condition.

Please view the photo below and read the attached article

<http://www.citynews.ca/2016/08/10/gta-woman-has-terrifying-flight-experience-hopes-for-policy-change/>

The cashew pieces visible on the floor could kill this young woman due to her life threatening allergy to tree nuts. Given the details of the article, her right to be treated with respect and dignity and to feel included in her environment have been withheld. Clearly, she feels threatened, vulnerable and at risk. Who wouldn't in similar circumstances? It's obvious no suitable accommodation of her medical condition had been made. Please explain to me how this situation satisfies the intent of Canadian and provincial human rights legislation? Many measures can be implemented to mitigate risk to prevent similar situations. These measures have been outlined and under

discussion at various levels of government and transportation regulation by the Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative (CAI) and are found here: <http://cai-allergies.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Policy-to-Reduce-the-Risk-for-Anaphylactic-Passengers-20131221.pdf> I urge the CTA to take appropriate action as outlined by the CAI that respects the right of food allergic travellers to be treated with dignity, respect and inclusiveness.

Please be informed: This is **not** asking for any type of guarantee. Risks are everywhere, and food allergic people are always mindful, cautious and prepared for emergencies. When travelling at 30,000 feet in the air in a confined space without access to prompt emergency care along with hundreds of passengers sharing the same environment, extra caution is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Paskey