

Second Class Citizens

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This is a reprinting of a brief presented to Eastern Provincial Airlines by Fred von Dreger last year. The only changes are that all of the prices have been increased.

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It is the contention of this brief that air transportation services to and from the Province of Prince Edward Island grossly discriminate against Canadians who wish to travel to and from this province and, in fact, make Island residents Second-Class Citizens in Canada.

Since the province is an island and does not have the same alternatives in surface transportation which other provinces in Canada enjoy, the air links in and out of P.E. I. are even more important in this province than elsewhere. Consequently the lack of such services and the unavailability of a whole range of special fare prices, which are available in all other Canadian provinces, places a particularly unequal and unfair burden on travellers to and from the Island.

The source of the difference is due to the fact

that P.E.I. is not serviced by Air Canada which provides special prices and fares in all the localities in which it operates. Since Air Canada is a Crown Corporation owned (and paid for!) by all Canadians, which presumably includes P.E. Islanders -- it would seem reasonable that whatever services, special prices and fares for air travel are available to other Canadians should, at the very least, also be available in P.E.I. Indeed, since this province is an island, and thus more reliant on air travel than other localities, it would seem fair to argue that, if anything, more, better

and proportionately less expensive services should be provided in and out of this province.

Furthermore it is a sad, though not unusual, commentary that those hardest hit by the lack of special services and lower air fares are the aged, the young, the students, the individuals and families on low and middle incomes who seek to save money in making a visit out-of-province, in taking a study-trip, in flying out on a holiday.

"Air Canada's Explore Canada Fares" can save you a bundle! BUT NOT FROM P.E.I.!! The local air-carrier, Eastern Provincial Airlines, provides almost none of

these specially-reduced fares and services available not only on Air Canada but also on most other North American airlines.

There are no Senior Citizens' (Club 65) Fares on EPA. There are no youth or student standby fares which save the traveller 40% of the regular economy air fare. An example will demonstrate the difference in air fare prices and services available from Charlottetown to Toronto vis a vis Halifax to Toronto, which are both approximately the same air mileage.

Charlottetown - Toronto		
Regular Economy		
Air Fare	O-W	RET
(via Montreal)	\$87.	\$174.
8 - 30 Day		
Excursion	Not Available	
Senior Citizen (Club 65)	Not Available	
Youth Standby	Not Available	

Halifax - Toronto		
Regular Economy		
Air Fare	O-W	RET
(via Montreal)	\$69.	\$138.
8 - 30 Day		
Excursion		\$97.
Senior Citizen (Club 65)	\$62.	\$124.
Youth Standby	\$55.	\$110.

As one can readily see, a Senior Citizen can fly to Toronto from Halifax for \$62. A student can fly there for \$55. on a

standby basis. Any individual traveller can take advantage of the 8 to 30 Day Excursion Fare and make the return trip, Halifax-Toronto-Halifax, for \$97. For a traveller from P.E.I., the only way of taking advantage of these savings is to make the connecting flight from Charlottetown to Halifax via EPA for \$38. and on that flight, of course, no Senior Citizen, Youth Standby or Excursion Fares apply! It seems very close to a penalty of \$38. for travellers from Prince Edward Island to "hook-up" to the advantages enjoyed by all other residents of Canada.

The extent of the discrepancy is even more startling when you realize that it remains still less expensive to pay the \$38. "penalty" and fly the longer way from Charlottetown to Toronto via Halifax (with the Air Canada discount rates) than it is to fly the shorter, more direct route through Montreal with EPA. The Excursion Rate from Halifax to Toronto is \$97., add the \$38. penalty for a total cost of \$138. return. The Regular Economy Fare with EPA through Montreal is \$174. return!!

There is another way of "hooking-up" with the reduced fares available through Air Canada -- to fly to Moncton, New Brunswick. There are two

