



November 27, 2018

**U.S. Embassy Ottawa  
Annual Disposition of Remains Report**

**The following information is submitted in accordance with current regulations to provide data on Canadian laws and practices on the disposition of remains in the Embassy consular district.**

**The consular district of Embassy Ottawa encompasses several counties in the southeastern portion of the Province of Ontario and in the southwestern portion of the Province of Quebec. Additional information on local laws in these two provinces can be obtained from the Disposition of Remains reports submitted by the consulates in the two provincial capitals (Toronto, for Ontario and Quebec City, for Quebec).**

**(A) Maximum Period Before Burial:**

**There are no specific laws which require burial within a set time after death, except when the local Medical Officer of Health would so order. The availability of refrigeration facilities can extend the time before disposition, if necessary.**

**(B) Embalming:**

**Embalming is not required if the remains are buried in the province where the death takes place. Embalming is required if the remains are removed from the province. Most funeral homes have licensed and regularly inspected facilities for embalming. For funeral purposes, it is recommended that remains be embalmed within 24-36 hours.**

**(C) Cremation:**

**Provincially and nationally, Canadian laws permit cremation. There are five crematoriums in the Ottawa region. Cremation may take place when the family has completed an application for cremation and a coroner has authorized the cremation with a Coroner's Cremation Certificate.**

**(D) Caskets and Containers:**

**When remains are transferred out of Canada, there are a variety of caskets and shipping containers available locally which meet the requirements for shipment out of the country.**

**(E) Exportation of Remains**

When a body is shipped from Canada to the United States, a certificate of death issued by the local registrar of deaths, or similar authority identifying the remains, is required. Also required are an affidavit for U.S. Customs which would also generally include evidence of embalming, when applicable (needed to comply with interstate shipment requirements), and a transit permit, authorizing export of the body out of the country, issued by the health authority at the port of embarkation. Ashes may be shipped by a courier service or air freight as long as they are in a container and wrapped with proper markings and documents. Most established funeral homes are able to arrange for interprovincial and international transfers.

**(F) Costs:**

The cost estimates included in this report have been obtained from a survey of Ottawa funeral homes conducted in 2013. The figures quoted are in Canadian Dollars.

**Funeral costs:**

The cost for a complete adult traditional local funeral, including embalming, would be approximately \$5800 and up. This does not include the cost of the casket. A minimal service providing for direct immediate disposition for burial or cremation would cost \$1980 and up. Estimates of specific funeral costs in Canadian currency are as follows:

- 1) Local interment: \$1000 and up
- 2) Cremation: \$615 and up
- 3) Embalming: \$900 and up
- 4) Caskets: \$1195 and up
- 5) Local adult grave: \$3500 and up
- 6) Preparing of remains for shipment (includes embalming, documentation and transportation, but not casket): \$2800 and up

**Transportation costs:**

Air freight shipment of the ashes of remains would range from approximately \$100 or less depending on average weight of 10kg, also depending on the U.S. destination. An estimate of costs for shipment by air\* of an average 170 kg casket from Ottawa, Canada, to selected U.S. points follows (these rates do not include cost of casket for shipment):

<b>New York (JFK)</b>	<b>\$399.50</b>
<b>Atlanta</b>	<b>\$518.50</b>
<b>Boston</b>	<b>\$399.50</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>\$612.00</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>\$612.00</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>\$399.00</b>

**\*Airlines constantly change; prices are determined by weight on an individual basis.**

**The above fees do not include minor airline destination (landing) charges and applicable tariffs (airport taxes).**

**(G) Exhumation and Shipment:**

**When a body is disinterred, application must be made by the representative (executor) of the estate of the deceased. A certified copy of the death certificate, permission from the local Medical Officer of Health, and provision for a receptacle to receive the grave residue (if necessary) is required. A representative from the health department and funeral director must be present for the disinterment. Exhumation costs range from approximately \$2900 and up. See Section F (above) for estimates of shipment costs, which would be in addition to the exhumation costs.**