Proof of Vaccination

The Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) believes that proof of vaccination for international travel should become a common part of travelers’ travel documents moving forward. TIAC prefers to use the term ‘proof of vaccination’ as opposed to ‘vaccine passport’ as ‘passport’ infers being mandatory and that all health information must be shared.

Destinations around the world require proof of vaccine to enter, and many countries have decided on their COVID-19 proof of vaccination method already. TIAC recommends that Canada shape policy concurrently with its counterparts, being a leading part of the conversation for solutions to ensure that we are on board with the global system, and stay part of the global ‘seamless traveler experience’ moving forward. Shaping policy should also include consultation with industry directly impacted by proof of vaccination, such as the cruise and aviation sectors.

Not everyone will get vaccinated, so it is crucially important that Canada also plan for testing and processes for those that are travelling without a vaccine. Travel cannot be limited to only those who have been vaccinated - testing and contact tracing will have to be a part of the process.

TIAC is advocating for one system for the whole of Canada based on nationwide key metrics and measurements, to ensure uniformity across the country. TIAC urges that this not look different in each province and territory. We have already seen examples of this fragmented system emerging across the country, and this would provide confusion and little assurance to travellers.

A crucial part of recovery will be consumer confidence. TIAC is looking to lead the way in ‘changing the current narrative’ on behalf of the sector. We need federal leaders to support positive language and messaging around the tourism industry. Travelers, both domestically and internationally, must feel confident in our proof of vaccine and testing requirements and procedures.

When restrictions are lifted and travel resumes, tourism businesses are prepared to offer experiences and deliver services following all the necessary health and safety protocols. It’s important that Canadians feel confident to get their vaccine, travel domestically, and that we look to lead a change in international narrative to showcase Canada as a safe destination for travellers.