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News Release

August 2, 2018

FIVE TIPS FROM CAA FOR A TROUBLE-FREE BORDER CROSSING

Many Saskatchewan families are still enjoying summer travel, especially with the approaching August long weekend. CAA Saskatchewan's summer safety tips, available at caask.ca can help motorists and their passengers stay safe while travelling. Vehicle safety information is also featured.

For those travellers planning to cross borders via road or air, CAA Saskatchewan, has some helpful tips*:

1. Going through customs with your children or someone else's:

All Canadian children, from newborns to 16, require their own passport to travel. The child's passport is valid for a maximum of 5 years and is valid until it reaches its expiry date, even after the child turns 16. (Passport photos are available at CAA Saskatchewan.) To enter the United States, children 15 years and younger arriving by land or sea may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate or a Canadian Citizenship Card. If a child is travelling with only one parent or with other adults, they must carry paperwork explaining the situation, such as a consent letter signed by the absent parent. All passports must be valid and remember that some countries require special documentation for entry. Inquire with your CAA Travel Consultant about the country you plan to visit. Visa applications can be obtained while arranging your travel plans. Details on travelling abroad including travel advisories are available at travel.gc.ca.

2. Going through customs with infant formula and/or baby food:

You can take infant formula, powdered milk, water, juice, baby food, and freezer packs through customs, but you must declare everything, including at a pre-boarding security checkpoint at the airport. Liquid milk, however, can mean a significantly longer wait at the checkpoint, because customs agents have the right to demand to test each container. If you arrive with a box of 12 cans of ready-to-drink infant formula, you may be in for a long wait. It's best to take only as much as you need, and to buy once you're at your destination or opt for powdered milk.

3. Travelling to the United States if you have a criminal record:

The United States and Canada share information about criminals. If you are not truthful, and the customs agent finds out, you could be in serious trouble. The United States forbids entry for many types of crimes, but not all. A conviction for impaired driving will not prevent you from travelling to the U.S., unless the incident involved a fatality or injury. You will need to provide the court judgement. You may be refused entry to the U.S. because of a crime committed many years ago, even for one which you've been granted a pardon in Canada. It's best to check with the U.S. Consulate, and, if required apply for a waiver of exclusion granting you permission to enter the country. Be aware that the process is long, expensive, and there is no guarantee of success. Other countries are generally less strict about travellers with criminal records, but it's important to understand that entry to any foreign country is never automatically granted.



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4. **Crossing into the U.S. with your dog:**

Your pet will have to be in good health and must be vaccinated for rabies at least one month prior to border crossing, along with a certificate of proof which can be provided by your veterinarian. Consider protection against tick bites and Lyme disease for your dog. All dog food must be in its original bag, sealed, and must not contain lamb, sheep, or goat meat. For other countries, check the requirements several months in advance so you will have time for pet vaccinations and remember to ask for the necessary documents. Plane travel can be difficult for furry companions. If you choose to fly with your dog or cat, check with your selected airline, and talk with your [veterinarian](#) about ways to keep the trip stress-free for your pet.

5. **Bringing back purchased alcohol, tobacco, food and duty-free items:**

The value of goods you bring into Canada must not exceed the allowance of \$200 (Canadian) per person for a stay of between 24 and 48 hours, or \$800 (Canadian) per person for a stay of more than 48 hours abroad; otherwise, you will have to pay duties and taxes. Remember that the value of goods you've purchased in duty-free shops counts toward the allowance. Alcohol and tobacco count as well, but the permitted quantities are limited. For details, visit [Canada Border Security](#). Bringing back [food](#) to Canada can be tricky. Processed foods are fine, cheese will probably be fine, but you never know with fruits and vegetables and meat. The answer is more often 'no' than 'yes.'

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For further information, contact:

Christine Niemczyk
Director, Corporate Communications & Public Relations
CAA Saskatchewan
306.791.4327
christine.niemczyk@caask.ca

** With thanks to CAA Quebec*