Hello Everyone,

This is an update regarding the Covid-19 situation relating to your upcoming travel with Schools Out Tours.

**In Canada Travel**

As of today we are not aware of any restrictions placed on **school travel within Canada** by any school or government authorities.

We fully expect that all trips within Canada will continue as planned.

**International Travel**

This is not the case with international travel.

Actions by officials across the country have varied but do have the same theme - International school travel has been affected, changed or cancelled

Below is a brief summary of the actions so far taken by school authorities or governments in the Atlantic Provinces:

* Nova Scotia: on March 4 the NS Dept of Education cancelled all international school travel scheduled between then and April 30th.
* Newfoundland & Labrador: The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District says it has cancelled two trips as of Friday (March 6) involving four junior high schools in the St. John's area and one school from Labrador City. In total the cancellations will affect about 40 students.
* New Brunswick:  The NB Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will require all students and teachers who have travelled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Singapore to avoid any public school for 14 days from their date of their return starting March 7, 2020.
* Prince Edward Island - At least two high schools on P.E.I. have altered upcoming international travel plans in light of the coronavirus situation, says the director of the Public Schools Branch. “We follow any outright restricted travel by the federal government through their travel advisories so the Public Schools Branch isn’t recommending anything on its own, we’re just following the travel advisories that are there,’’. (Parker) Grimmer said it’s also important to point out that things continue to evolve with COVID-19 so conversations with government and health authorities will continue.

**Insurance**

* The Schools Out Tours procedure for **international travel** includes the purchase of the Manulife Youth All-Inclusive Travel Policy for each student.*As long as the policy was in effect before March 5th, cancellation due to a level 3 or 4 travel advisory or by school authorities in relation to COVID-19****will be covered****.* As of March 5th Manulife declared COVID-19 a known event and will no longer include coverage for cancellations due to the virus on policies purchased on or after March 5th. All other coverages are in effect as per the existing policy.
  + We are currently in the initial stage of the claims process for two NS school now.
* For **in Canada travel**SOT always recommends the purchase of the Youth All-Inclusive travel insurance.
  + **IF** there was to be an official school authority or government cancellation of a trip within Canada then an insurance policy purchased and in effect before March 5th will cover cancellation due to COVID-19.
* Are there other insurance providers that will sell travel insurance for travel not yet affected by COVID-19? Possibly
  + We are talking with CAA to determine whether their travel insurance product would be applicable for a COVID-19 related cancellation by school authorities of a trip within Canada. We will update you as soon as possible.

**Schools Out Tours standard cancellation policy**

The SOT standard cancellation policy is part of each tour contract and listed on the Terms and Conditions page.

* Your initial deposit is 100% non-refundable.
* Airline tickets, event tickets and other prepaid items are 100% non-refundable.
* Should a tour be cancelled in writing by the group/client ***45 days or more before the departure date***, Schools Out Tours Inc. will refund as much of the full tour price as is possible taking into consideration those portions of the tour price which are non-refundable.

In other words, should your school authorities deem to cancel your trip then the initial deposit is non-refundable but all other monies will be returned if at all possible.

All for now,

Mike

**Mike Morrissey**

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