

Good morning,

As somebody with life threatening allergies I very much appreciate this opportunity to comment.

I would recommend that when people are booking their flights that they have an opportunity to declare an allergy (with medical documentation). Following that they are then known to the transport staff and seated in an area with space provided between them and potential allergens. Additionally, when an allergy is a serious anaphylaxis risk for flights - that the crew announce to all passengers that there is a passenger with that allergy on board and ask them to refrain from eating that food during the flight.

Secondly, please amend the service dog policy to allow owner/private trained dogs. As somebody with several life threatening allergies (some of which are pretty uncommon such as citrus) having the early warning from my service dog would make it much safer for me to travel as I could both take extra medication and request that the allergen is removed from near me, or me from near it.

Unfortunately none of the Canadian programs currently train allergy detection dogs so we have to owner/private train them.

If you follow the AODA policy in this regard and just request a copy of the passengers doctor's letter regarding their need for a SD it will be clear that the allergy is disabling if that is all the dog is trained for. However, for many of us our dogs are cross trained in mitigating several disabilities.

Kind regards,

Dr. Nicola Shaw