

Blue Skies **Tax Service**

104-5695 Cowrie St. Box 46 Sechelt BC, V0N3A0

Medical Travel Expenses

Many people do not realize that they can deduct the costs associated with travel for the purpose of obtaining medical services. Taxpayers who live in remote areas are eligible to deduct these costs if they are unable to obtain a particular medical service in the area in which they live. This allows residents of the Sunshine Coast to deduct travel expenses for medical trips to the Greater Vancouver area.

In order to be eligible, the distance traveled must be at least 40km. The 16km ferry crossing fulfills nearly half of this requirement. The distance from home to Langdale ferry terminal plus Horseshoe Bay to the required service then fulfills the rest.

When referred to a specialist, a TAP (Travel Assistance Program) form can be obtained from the referring doctor that will pay for the ferry trip.

Eligible expenses include transportation whether by bus, taxi, train or plane, parking and meals. Lodging is an eligible expense if the distance travelled is great than 80km. These expenses may be claimed for both the patient and an escort if one is required. Receipts must be saved for all expenses. A flat rate of \$17 per meal per person up to 3 meals per day is permitted without receipts. When driving your own vehicle, mileage may be claimed at a rate of \$0.495/km (BC 2014 rate).