

Top 11 Questions about the ABA-YLD Montreal Spring Conference

1. Last time I went to Canada I used my driver's license as ID – why does everyone keep talking about getting a passport?

As of January 2007 a new law requires a valid (i.e .non-expired) passport to travel to/from Canada. Getting or renewing a passport may take up to **6 weeks**, so if you don't already have a valid passport go to www.travel.state.gov for information on how to obtain/renew your passport.

2. I don't speak any French – Will I be OK?

Montreal is a bilingual, cosmopolitan city. A majority of people, especially people in the service industry, are fluent in both French and English. English speakers will have no problems getting around or getting themselves understood. In addition, your hotel TV will have all your favorite American channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN etc...), you will be able to read English news in one of the 2 major English speaking news papers (The Gazette and the National Post) or listen to English radio stations.

3. Do I need to rent a car?

While you may choose to rent a car (hotel has parking available for guests), it's really not necessary. Montreal has an amazing public transportation system, including a metro/subway system that is clean, safe and very user friendly. Taxis are abundant and always easy to flag down. In addition, the Hyatt (the conference hotel) is very central and you will be able to walk many places from there.

4. Can I use US currency?

While most stores will accept US currency, the exchange rate they will charge you is typically awful. It is highly recommended that you use Canadian currency (or credit cards) for your purchases. Remember that you will likely need Canadian currency to pay for the taxi to the hotel from the airport. You can convert US dollars at the airport (although you may be charged a slightly higher fee). You may also be able to obtain Canadian funds from the ATM machines at the Complexe DeJardins (the mall connected to the Hyatt). Depending your bank (and the service for your ATM card, the fee may be much less). When using credit cards, you will be charged in Canadian dollars. Your credit card will likely charge you a fee for converting Canadian dollars to US dollars.

5. What will the weather be like?

The weather at that time of year is very hit or miss. We could luck out and get gorgeous sunny weather in the mid 60s or could hit a cold/rainy streak. The odds

on having snow are very low (although early May snow has been known to happen) so don't bother packing snow boots! Average high is 60 and average low is 40. So check the weather reports as the conference gets closer and pack something warm to wear in the evenings – you won't regret it!

6. What airport should I fly into?

While Montreal technically has 2 airports, most regular airlines (non-charter) fly into Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (Airport Code: **YUL**). This is by far the closest airport to the city – only 20 min/\$25 taxi ride from hotel.

7. Will my cell phone and Blackberry work in Canada?

The answer to this depends on your service provider and your phone. So check with your provider. Also note that most calling plans cover the continental US, and **do not include Canada**. This means that calls you make/receive while in Montreal will be “long distance” and will incur additional per minute, roaming or connection costs – so please check with your service provider to make sure you understand the true costs of each call you will make/receive before you have an unexpected surprise on your next cell phone/blackberry bill. In addition, you may be required to dial differently. For example, you may be required to dial “1” before dialing numbers even though you do not need to in the states.

8. What time zone is Montreal in?

Montreal is in the same time zone as the US Eastern time zone.

9. Will my electronic appliances work in Montréal?

YES - Canada works on the same voltage as the US and uses the same plugs – so all your electronic appliances will work without the need for any adaptors or transformers.

10. What about the high sales tax?

For those of you who have traveled to Canada in the past – you might remember getting taxes back on your purchases. As of April of 2007 – this is **NO LONGER THE CASE**. So make sure you understand that every purchase you make will have about **13.5%** tax (2 separate taxes added one over the other) added to it (this is not like Europe where the tax is included in the ticket/list price – tax will be added at check out). And don't forget tips aren't included on restaurants checks – so be sure to take that into account in addition to the tax.

11. What is the meeting attire.

Business casual attire is appropriate for all functions except the Friday social event, where it is a Black-Tie Optional event.