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FEATURE**

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Getting set for GST effect on travel costs

By JOANNE POOLEY, CA

Whether your imminent travel plans include heading south for the winter, seeing the world or just getting across town, you will be better able to set off in the right direction if you know what's ahead when the Goods and Services Tax.

If you use municipal transportation services, such as commuter trains, or local buses or subways, you will be glad to know that you won't pay GST on your fares.

While your city or municipality must pay GST on all goods and service it purchases, it is not supposed to be in any worse position than it was under the federal sales tax (FST) because of a complex rebate system.

For those who get around town by taxi or who use airport limousines, be aware that these fares will be subject to GST. If you get out of town by a train or bus that's not locally or municipally funded, you'll also pay GST on your fare. But, if you go out of the country by train or bus, you won't be taxed.

Fliers will be taxed, though there are some exceptions. International air travel, except to the United States, is not taxable. However, flights within Canada will be subject to the GST. The price of domestic tour packages will include GST on all taxable individual components, including hotels, meals, car rental and airfare.

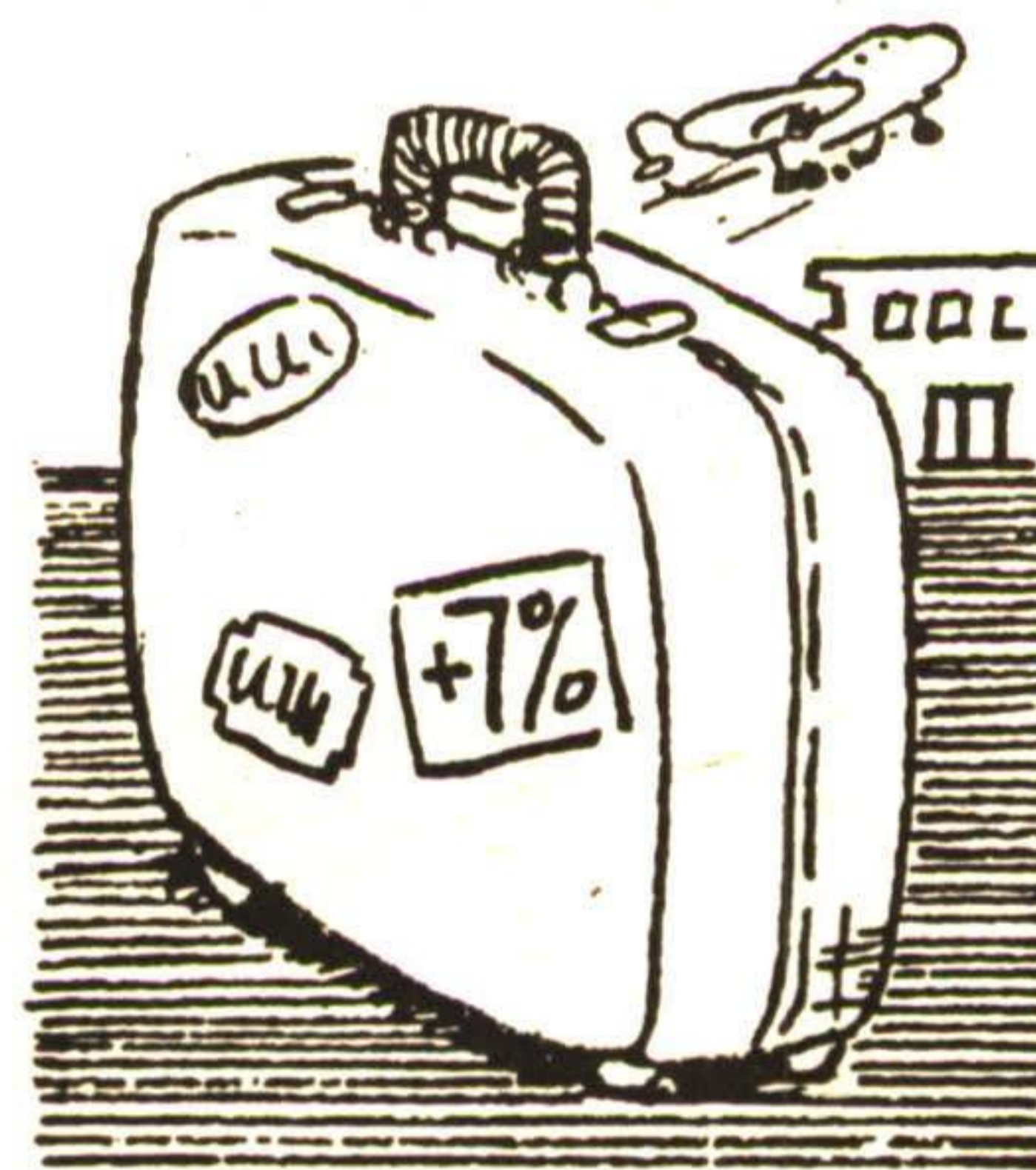
Air travel between Canada



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and the continental United States, which excludes Hawaii, is also subject to the GST. However, if you buy your ticket and begin your trip outside Canada, the tax does not apply. Canadians living near larger U.S. cities, such as Buffalo, may profit by flying from these centres to other U.S. or Canadian destinations.

Package tours from Canada to the United States are also subject to GST on the portion of the tour that would be taxable if it were purchased separately. In most cases, this will mean that only airfare is taxed.



For CA's advice on TV—see Your Wealth, available on broadcast channels in Ontario and on satellite across Canada, or see Money in the Bank, on your community cable channel.

Money care is general financial advice by Canada's chartered accountants. Joanne Pooley is with Hewitt Associates.



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