

Mississauga - Federal Credit Agency
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**Abbott admits
ride imprudent**

Fear of Flying is now on Consumer Affairs minister Tony Abbott's reading list.

The Mississauga MP came under fire last week for having accepted a free airplane ride with the Canadian Bankers' Association (CBA) from Ottawa to Toronto on Friday, Nov. 12, after having heard the CBA's arguments against new rules his department has proposed governing credit and loans.

Under the proposed Borrowers and Depositors Act, consumer credit would be regulated and banks would be forced to pay more interest.

The propriety of Abbott's decision to accept the ride from a special interest group was raised in the House by Conservative consumer critic Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):

Under the proposed Borrowers and Depositors Act, consumer credit would be regulated and banks would be forced to pay more interest.

Abbott's action came in the midst of mounting criticism of the federal cabinet's propensity for accepting "gift rides" and for its extensive use of the government's aircraft fleet.

Abbott explained to The Mississauga News on Monday, he had only accepted the flight offer to Toronto because he would otherwise have been late for a Friday night function being held in his honor.

"I don't offer any abject apology," he said. "I don't deny, however, that it was perhaps imprudent."