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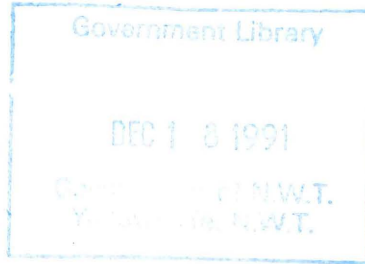
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**FREQUENT
FLYERS
GROUNDED
— PUBLIC
SERVANTS
NO
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FOR
FREE
FLIGHTS**

OTTAWA, ON—

High-flying bureaucrats have had their wings clipped.

They have lost one of their biggest perks — free airline tickets.

No longer will federal public servants get free tickets for leisure trips by taking advantage of frequent-flyer programs offered by domestic airlines.

The federal government has quietly abandoned as a failure a voluntary program under which bureaucrats were supposed to turn in their frequent-flyer points for later use on government business.

Canada's two major airlines have agreed that from now on, all frequent-flyer points earned by public servants on government business will be credited directly to the government.

By moving to prevent abuses of frequent-flyer programs, the government is potentially going to save up to \$20 million a year.

About 1,600 federal bureaucrats take airline trips every working day.