

Subject: Standing for Air India Inquiry
Importance: High

July 14, 2006

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

I am the President of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC), a national, non-profit victim advocacy group. The CRCVC was incorporated in 1993 and is sponsored by the Canadian Professional Police Association.

After a brief discussion today with Susheel Gupta about the Inquiry, he informed me that the deadline for requests for standing is today. I have been in Texas with my family for several months and I apologize for this last-minute application, but I believe our research and experience in working with some of the families of Air India and 9/11 will assist the Inquiry.

It has been our experience that the government services offered to families of both tragedies were insufficient. We are currently doing research for the Department of Justice Policy Centre for Victim Issues on the needs of victims of terrorism. One of the pieces of our research was a one day symposium on the needs of victims of terrorism and we heard from mental health professionals, law enforcement, emergency responders, victim service workers and victims themselves. We are also examining how other jurisdictions

have responded to terrorist attacks and what Canada can learn from those experiences.

I believe our expertise supporting crime victims in general, our experience in working with families of terrorism and our ongoing research can assist the Commissioner in developing recommendations to better serve Canadians. In the Terms of Reference, b(iv) makes reference to "the unique challenges presented by the prosecution of terrorism cases." Given the legal recognition of victims in the criminal justice system (i.e. victim impact statements), we believe we could offer the Commissioner some insight into the unique challenges of meeting the needs of victims in terrorism cases. I also believe the Commissioner will benefit from our input in assisting him develop recommendations pertaining to the relationship between the government and victims of terrorism.

Therefore, on behalf of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, I am asking for standing to present written submissions to the Commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

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