



Media Release

May 4, 2006, Ottawa – The Order in Council (P.C. 2006 - 293) defining the terms of reference for the Air India Inquiry was issued on May 1, 2006. The Honourable John C. Major was named Commissioner under Part I of the Inquiries Act. He will conduct an independent public inquiry into the investigation of the bombing of Air India Flight 182.

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Order in Council, the Commissioner has appointed Sheila-Marie Cook to act as Executive Director and Commission Secretary and Mark J. Freiman to act as the Commission's Lead Counsel.

Mrs. Cook has had extensive experience in strategic planning and the management of Royal Commissions, Inquiries and Public Policy reviews. She served as Director and Senior Advisor on both the National Transportation Act Review Commission and the Canadian Transportation Accident Investigation and Safety Board Act Review Commission. More recently, she was the Executive Director and Commission Secretary for the Commission of Inquiry into the Sponsorship Program and Advertising Activities. She will be responsible for the overall operations of the Commission.

Mr. Freiman is a partner in the Toronto office of McCarthy Tetrault, LLP and serves as the leader of the firm's National Public Law Group. He has appeared as lead counsel at all levels of court on a broad range of important cases. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Freiman served as Deputy Attorney General of Ontario. He also served as Law Clerk to the former Chief Justice of Canada, Brian Dickson, and as Senior Policy Advisor to former Attorney General of Ontario, Ian G. Scott, Q.C. In addition to his legal and public policy background, Mr. Freiman holds a PhD from Stanford University in Modern Thought and Literature.

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