



For immediate release

Arar Commission to hold public hearings starting May 9

Ottawa, April 28, 2005 - The Commission of Inquiry into the actions of Canadian Officials in Relation with Maher Arar, which is headed by Mr. Justice Dennis R. O'Connor will be holding public hearings starting May 9 until the end of June.

During that time, the Commission will hear evidence from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) as well as from other government witnesses. Former and current cabinet ministers will be called upon to testify as well as parliamentarians. The Commission will also hear expert testimony on issues such as dual citizenship, the U.S. practice of extraordinary rendition, torture as well as the impact of 9/11 on the Muslim and Arab communities.

The complete list of witnesses will be posted and regularly updated on the Commission's Web site www.ararcommission.ca, under "Schedule of Hearings".

Please note that all the Commission's public hearings will take place at the **Algonquin Room, 111 Sussex Drive, in Ottawa starting at 10 a.m.** The transcripts of the Commission's public hearings can be found on the Commission's Web site usually on the same day the testimony was heard.

Established under Part I of the Inquiries Act, the Arar Inquiry was set up on the recommendation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to investigate and report on the actions of Canadian officials in relation to Maher Arar. The Commissioner is also mandated to make recommendations that he considers advisable on an arm's length review mechanism for the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to national security.

-30-

Media contact : Francine Bastien, 613-996-4741; Cellular: 613-299-6554; Email:
fbastien@bellnet.ca

PO Box / CP 507, Station B / Succursale B
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5P6

613 996-4741 Fax / télécopieur 613 992-2366

www.ararcommission.ca / www.commissionarar.ca