

SUPPLEMENTARY RULING RE: FUNDING

I have received a request for additional financial support from the eighteen organizations with intervenor status. In an earlier ruling I recommended funding for the intervenors to assist with their participation in the evidentiary portion of the factual Inquiry. In that ruling I indicated that I would address the amount of funding for their closing submissions at a later point in time. I also recommended that the funding be based on the intervenors' participating in specific groups.

In March, 2005, the Coalition of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Canadian Arab Federation entered into a Contribution Agreement with the Commission whereby the Minister agreed to provide funding for parties meaning "an Applicant with a substantial and direct interest in the subject-matter of the factual inquiry . . . to contribute towards the reasonable expenditures , , ." It was also agreed that payments under the Agreement "be directed to and issued in the name of the legal counsel retained by the Applicant." In early 2005, the eighteen intervenors formed a single group, titled "Committee of Organizations with Intervenor Status at the Inquiry" in order to pool their resources and to launch fund raising activities to hire a coordinator. The Coalition of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Canadian Arab Federation are members of this Committee.

As a result of support from some generous organizations in the labour movement, they were able to fund almost five months participation, taking them from February through to mid-June of 2005. Since February, the intervenors have participated in the Inquiry, in effect as a single coordinated voice. I commend them for this approach. From the Inquiry's standpoint, this approach has enabled the intervenors to participate in an efficient and in an effective manner. Coordinating intervenor participation, to the extent possible, makes sense.

In the request for additional funding, the Coalition of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Canadian Arab Federation indicate that they exhausted their available resources, including funding received from this Inquiry. They

request that I recommend funding in the amount of \$21,000 to cover their expenses, which amount includes the salary of a coordinator for the Committee of Organizations with Intervenor Status at the Inquiry, for the period from the middle of June until September 30, 2005.

In my view, this is a reasonable request and I will recommend to the government the funding of the additional \$21,000. The contribution of the intervenors to date has been useful and their continued participation would be of assistance to the Inquiry. Submissions are scheduled for September, and while some intervenors may choose to make submissions separately, and I look forward to the participation of the intervenors in making submissions at that time.

August 17, 2005

« Dennis O'Connor »

DATE

Commissioner Justice Dennis O'Connor