

Saskatoon:

Unit 3, 844-51st St. East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5C7
Tel (306) 975-4725
Toll free (888) 844-8886
Fax (306) 975-4728
vellacott.mp@shawlink.ca

**Ottawa:**

Suite 610, Justice Bldg.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel (613) 992-1899
Fax (613) 992-3085
Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca
www.mauricevellacott.ca

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Vellacott's 2005 vote for Air India public inquiry sees fulfillment in Prime Minister's decision today

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2006

OTTAWA – Conservative Party MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) praises Prime Minister Stephen Harper's announcement of the launch of a public judicial inquiry into the Air India bombing. When the Prime Minister met the families of the Air India victims on March 7, he promised a full public judicial inquiry. Today's announcement fulfills that promise.

"The terms of reference have been prepared with the full input and consultation with families, as Mr. Justice Major consulted families in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver," said Vellacott.

"This inquiry is a reflection of our compassion as a nation to those who lost mothers, fathers, siblings, relatives and friends to this terrible act of terrorism," said Vellacott.

Three of the victims, Chandra and Manju Khandelwal and Mohanrani Kachroo, have family members who live in northwest Saskatoon. Vellacott has spoken to these surviving family members in his constituency, and is aware of the pain they still feel over the unanswered questions surrounding the worst mass murder in Canadian history.

"More than 300 Canadians were killed in the Air India bombing two decades ago, and still today, their families and loved ones have no justice and no closure," said Vellacott. "It is our sincere hope that this inquiry may bring a measure of closure to those who still grieve for their loved ones lost on that terrible day in 1985."

Both the Government and Mr. Justice Major hope to have an efficient and focussed inquiry that will contribute to the improvement of our intelligence and policing system as well as ensure our airport security is world class. Canada's new government is committed to protecting the safety and security of Canadians.

– 30 –

For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or (613) 297-2249