



For Immediate Release  
August 10, 2010

## **CONSERVATIVES IN CHAOS ON CANADIAN AVIATION SECURITY**

OTTAWA – Under the pretext of fear and paranoia regarding air security, the Conservatives hastily called back the Public Safety and National Security Committee today to stage a costly publicity stunt.

“This meeting was a charade,” said Liberal Transport Critic Joe Volpe. “The Conservatives called this meeting and were completely unprepared.”

The meeting descended into chaos when the Conservative Chair, Garry Breitkreuz was a no-show, and the Conservative members present appeared unaware of the rules, regulations and departmental responsibilities of air security.

“What a waste of taxpayers’ money,” said Mr. Volpe. “The Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities is already engaged in an in-depth study of aviation security and has already held over 20 hours of hearings.”

Moreover, aviation security, Identity Screening Regulations, and the Aeronautics Act all fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Transport and Transport Canada.

On August 1st, after media reports alleged that individuals can board aircraft without being visually identified, John Baird, the former Minister of Transport, ordered a departmental review of the issue. The current regulations only require name confirmation, but not visual identification.

“The Conservative members of the Public Safety and National Security Committee do not even have faith in their current or previous Minister of Transport or their own Members on the Transport Committee,” said Mr. Volpe. “They do not want to wait for their own government’s departmental review.”

“The calling of this meeting is nothing but an attempt by the Conservative government to tie up the Public Safety Committee so it cannot study the G8/G20 summit boondoggle and the issues raised by CSIS Director Richard Fadden,” said Liberal Public Safety and National Security Critic Mark Holland. “The Conservatives should stop wasting tax payer dollars with public relations stunts and the politics of fear and let the Transport Committee carry out its mandate.”

-30-

Contact:

Office of the Hon. Joe Volpe, MP: 613-992-6361  
Office of Mark Holland, MP: 613-995-8042