

Statement by the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-Food)

Ottawa, Ontario, July 31, 2009...The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-Food), issued the following statement today regarding the alleged fraud situation surrounding financial advisor Earl Jones:

“I have been following the recent events surrounding the situation related to Earl Jones. This matter is currently before the courts and we must wait for the judicial process to take place. However, I do realize that some people may encounter difficulties in meeting their tax obligations as a result of these circumstances. I encourage affected taxpayers to contact the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) English enquiries line at **1-800-959-8281** or the French enquiries line at **1-800-959-7383**. Our agents will work together with affected individuals to resolve any problems on a case-by-case basis.”

“The CRA is committed to providing Canadians with a fair and impartial tax system, and to consider relief for taxpayers. The taxpayer relief provisions provide me, as Minister of National Revenue, the discretion to waive or cancel all or part of penalties and interest when taxpayers are unable to meet their tax obligations due to extraordinary circumstances.”

-30-

