

**Cougar Helicopters granted full Intervener (Standing) Status for the “Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board’s (C-NLOPB) Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry.**

St. John’s, Newfoundland – (August 11, 2009) – Cougar Helicopters Inc., a subsidiary of VIH Aviation Group Ltd, was granted “intervener” status by Commissioner Robert Wells, Q.C. for the upcoming Offshore Helicopter Safety Inquiry (OHSI) scheduled to commence in October. According to the inquiry’s terms of reference its purpose is to *“determine what improvements can be made so that the Board (C-NLOPB) can determine that the risks of helicopter transportation of offshore workers is as low as is reasonably practicable in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area”*.

“Cougar Helicopters’ commitment to safety is beyond reproach. As such Cougar is resolute in its intention to sit as an active participant throughout this inquiry,” said Cougar Helicopters’ General Manager, Rick Burt. “We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this most important examination of offshore helicopter transportation safety and we will assist the inquiry as best we can”.

Cougar Helicopters has been providing Offshore Services in Newfoundland since 1989. On March 12, 2009 a part failure in an S-92 led to the accident of flight 491 which tragically ended with the loss of 15 passengers and 2 crew members. “March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 will live with us forever,” said VIH Aviation Group President, Ken Norie. “All of the Offshore Industry operators are fully committed to ensuring that the risks of helicopter transportation are mitigated wherever and whenever practicable. We look forward to this inquiry and our participation in it”.

Cougar Helicopters will be an active participant at the inquiry however, like the Transportation Safety Board’s proceedings, Cougar will not comment further until the inquiry proceedings are closed. In all inquiries it is crucial that proceedings are able to run their course and that findings are produced in due time based upon a consideration of all the facts.