



Media Release

For immediate release.

OMCA
4141 Yonge Street
Suite 306
Toronto, ON
M2P 2A8

416.229.6622 (P)
416.229.6281 (F)

info@omca.com
www.omca.com

Founded in 1929, the Ontario Motor Coach Association is a full-service trade association representing 80 bus operators, over 100 tour operators and over 700 affiliated sellers to the group tour industry including attractions, destinations, hotels, and retail outlets across North America. Operator members provide scheduled intercity, charter, tour, school bus, contract, shuttle, airport and transit services. The OMCA works with all levels of government to outline the industry's contributions and concerns regarding a seamless, sustainable public and private passenger transportation network.

Date April 23, 2009

Toronto:

The Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA) supports the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO) in their handling of the closure of Conquest Vacations. During the few failures in the industry, TICO has been there to support consumers who have purchased their travel products from a TICO registrant and have protected consumers.

OMCA appreciates TICO's efforts and the peace of mind the Travel Industry Act provides every day to consumers who book from TICO registrants. Consumers should take note of the protection that booking with a TICO registrant provides.

"OMCA and those of our 98 tour operator members that sell to Ontario consumers support the TICO consumer protection system that we helped set up 12 years ago", states Brian Crow, OMCA President.

"The industry, our members included, pay into the fund that compensates travelers and protects consumers for those rare occasions when a business fails. There is no government taxpayer subsidy to the fund." adds Crow.

TICO has also funded consumer awareness campaigns to inform consumers to "always travel with TICO".

OMCA recognizes TICO as the authority to speak on this issue and urges the media to go to TICO as the source for factual information.

This unfortunate incident underscores the importance for consumers to purchase travel only from TICO registrants. Consumers should always ask to see a TICO registration number before investing in travel products.

For more information, contact Ann Fairley, Vice President OMCA at 416.229.6622 x 223.