

INDUSTRY MINISTER MANLEY RELEASES GAS PRICES RESPONSE PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF COMPETITION POLICY

OTTAWA, November 30, 1994 -- Industry Minister John Manley, Member of Parliament for Ottawa South, released today the response by the Director of Investigation and Research, Bureau of Competition Policy, to complaints about retail gasoline prices.

The Director was responding to a request from the Minister to make a recommendation on whether the *Competition Act* is adequate to address concerns about possible anticompetitive behaviour in various gasoline markets in Canada. Mac_Harb, M.P. for Ottawa Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade, had raised concerns about gasoline prices in the Ottawa region in particular.

The Minister has accepted the Director's recommendation.

"Business, consumers and government all want a competitive market because of the benefits that flow from vigorous competition," Mr. Manley added. "The Bureau of Competition Policy will continue to actively monitor industry developments to keep the marketplace competitive and will enforce all relevant provisions of the *Competition Act*."

Mr. Harb said that while he is satisfied with the Director's report, he will work with Mr. Manley in exploring with legal council means to protect the rights of industry employees, retailers and other individuals who report information about pricing activities.

Anyone with concerns about gasoline prices or the petroleum industry can contact either the Petroleum Communication Foundation at (403) 264-6064 or the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute at (613) 232-3709, ext. 202.

Anyone wanting information on the retail prices of gasoline in cities across the country can contact Natural Resources Canada at (613) 992-8775 or (613) 995-3051.

Finally, anyone with information suggesting possible unlawful activity is invited to contact federal investigators at the Bureau of Competition Policy at (819) 994-0798.

Copies of the Director's response are available on request.