

Air Canada comments on discussions with unions regarding funding of its pension plans

MONTREAL, May 4 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada said today that the Company is in ongoing discussions with its Canadian-based unions to find a funding solution which would allow the airline to maintain its defined benefit pension

The discussions have focused on seeking support from its unions for a moratorium and other conditions on funding its pension deficit so as to establish financial certainty over the next several years.

The Company stated in its discussions with the unions that its objective is to maintain its current defined benefit plans without restructuring the pension benefit formula. The Company's proposal does not contemplate a transition of its plans to a defined contribution plan design.

There can be no assurance that an agreement will be reached between the company and the unions on this matter.

CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Air Canada's public communications may include written or oral forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking statements, by their nature, are based on assumptions and are subject to important risks and uncertainties. Any forecasts or forward-looking predictions or statements cannot be relied upon due to, amongst other things, changing external events and general uncertainties of the business. Actual results may differ materially from results indicated in forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, including without limitation, industry, market, credit and economic conditions, the ability to reduce operating costs and secure financing, pension issues, energy prices, currency exchange and interest rates, employee and labour relations, competition, war, terrorist acts, epidemic diseases, insurance issues and costs, changes in demand due to the seasonal nature of the business, supply issues, changes in laws, regulatory developments or proceedings, pending and future litigation and actions by third parties as well as the factors identified throughout Air Canada's public disclosure file available at www.sedar.com. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release represent Air Canada's expectations as of the date of this news release and are subject to change after such date. However, Air Canada disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required under applicable securities regulations.

For further information:

For further information: Isabelle Arthur (Montréal), (514) 422-5788: Angela Mah (Vancouver), (604) 270-5741; Peter Fitzpatrick (Toronto), (416)

263-5576: Internet: aircanada.com



