

Saskatoon:
Unit 3, 844-51st St. East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5C7
Tel (306) 975-4725
Toll free (888) 844-8886
Fax (306) 975-4728
vellacott.mp@shawlink.ca



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Ottawa:
Suite 610, Justice Bldg.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel (613) 992-1899
Fax (613) 992-3085
Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca
www.mauricevellacott.ca

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Veterans' Bill of Rights and Veterans' Ombudsman

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday announced that the Conservative government is taking another step forward in according Canadian veterans the respect they deserve by introducing a Veterans' Bill of Rights and establishing a Veterans' Ombudsman.

“The brave men and women of the Canadian Forces and RCMP have always acted courageously when called upon; and it’s because veterans have always been willing to stand up for our country and its interests, Canada’s New Government is standing by them now,” said the Prime Minister.

“The introduction of a Veterans' Bill of Rights and the establishment of a Veterans' Ombudsman follows through on an important promise we made during the election campaign; namely, a Conservative government would accord our veterans the respect and honour they deserve,” said Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin.

The Bill of Rights, which will take effect immediately, will strengthen the government’s ability to respond quickly and fairly to the concerns of Canadian veterans. The language contained in this document reflects the language for which veterans’ organizations have long been advocating.

The Veterans' Ombudsman, who will operate arms-length from the government, will play an important role in raising awareness of the needs and concerns of veterans. In accordance with our government’s strong commitment to openness and accountability, the Ombudsman’s annual report will be tabled by the Minister of Veterans Affairs in Parliament for all Canadians to see.

“Our veterans have given their very best to Canada. Through the Veterans' Bill of Rights and Veterans' Ombudsman, our government is taking yet another step to ensure that Canada does its very best for them,” said the Prime Minister.

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