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All Canadians will benefit from legislation to repeal Section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Yesterday, Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, introduced legislation to repeal section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, says, “Section 67 prevents persons, often First Nations women and persons living or working on reserves, from making complaints of discrimination arising from actions taken or decisions made pursuant to the Indian Act.”

Vellacott emphasized, “We are committed to ensuring that all Canadians have equal access to human rights protections. The proposed legislation is a tangible example of this Government’s commitment to enhancing the quality of life of Aboriginal people. Unlike the previous Liberal government, we’ve replaced empty rhetoric and empty promises with concrete action.”

Vellacott stated that, “Disregard for Aboriginal rights has gone on for too long. This legislation is another example of how Canada’s New Government is committed to improving the lives of Aboriginal women, children and families.”

Vellacott portrayed this initiative as building on steps the Conservative government has already taken to empower First Nations people including:

- the ongoing consultations towards finding a legislative solution to the issues of matrimonial real property on reserves;
- support for family violence prevention programs and shelters; and
- legislation to enable First Nations to assume meaningful control over on-reserve elementary and secondary schools in British Columbia.

The repeal of section 67 will build on these initiatives and strengthen individual rights in Canada.

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249