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**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

## **Vellacott lauds biofuels initiative as win for farmers, environmentalists and domestic industry**

**For Immediate Release**

**December 21, 2006**

**OTTAWA** – Yesterday, the Minister of the Environment, Rona Ambrose, and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, Chuck Strahl, announced that Canada’s New Government would take further action to support the Clean Air Act initiatives by regulating the use of renewable fuels in Canada and delivering \$345 million to assist farmers and rural communities seize new market opportunities in the agricultural bioproducts sector.

Of the \$345 million being announced, \$200 million will be dispensed through the Capital Formation Assistance Program for Renewable Fuels Production which will provide producers with incentives for equity participation in new renewable fuels production capacity. The other \$145 million will be disbursed through the Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program which will provide support for cross-sector research networks conducting scientific research and development related to the advancement of a Canadian bio-based economy.

Last spring, the Conservative government announced that by 2010, it would require five per cent average renewable fuel content in Canadian transportation fuels. Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP Maurice Vellacott, member of the Parliamentary Environment Committee, says, “This target is part of our practical approach to improving the environment – providing real results for Canadians.”

Vellacott remarked, “Our Government understands Canadians’ concerns around the quality of the air we breathe. We know that cleaner fuel means less pollution and a healthier environment.”

Vellacott continued, “This program supports our Clean Air Act initiative by taking action on the reduction of smog and greenhouse gases, but it relies on all parties working co-operatively with our government to move Clean Air legislation forward.”

Vellacott noted that, “In the short term, starting in 2010, this will make a reduction of about 4 megatonnes of greenhouse gases each and every year. This is the equivalent of taking about one million cars off the road.”

Vellacott emphasized that, “The \$345 million of funding programs will also bolster the production of biofuels and other bioproducts, and will help Canada become a leader in developing a biofuels industry.”

Vellacott stressed, “This action also demonstrates that Canada’s Conservative Government is taking serious, affordable and results-oriented steps to protect the environment and promote the health and well being of Canadians and our economy.”

Vellacott added, “Through these initiatives, Canada’s Conservative Government is encouraging producers to harness new market opportunities that will help increase their income and the overall sustainability of the agricultural sector.”

Vellacott concluded, “This is a win-win-win situation. Canadians will reap environmental benefits, our farmers and rural communities will profit, and by continuing to work towards a viable domestic biofuels industry, we will secure Canada’s place in the growing bio-economy.”

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