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Liberal caucus delay of Bill C-2 may cause an election

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – The Minister of Justice appeared today before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to deliver one clear message: “Urgently pass the Tackling Violent Crime Act (Bill C-2).”

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin says, “Tackling crime and protecting Canadians seems not to be a priority for Liberal leader Stéphane Dion. Stéphane Dion continues to watch the Liberal-controlled Senate delay and obstruct the passage of Bill C-2, the Tackling Violent Crime Act.”

Vellacott accuses the Liberals of “preventing critical reform to the Criminal Code that will properly penalize dangerous criminals who threaten our communities.”

Minister Nicholson was very clear when he appeared in front of the Senate committee this afternoon. He said, “If this most important piece of legislation is delayed beyond the end of this month, I will advise the Prime Minister to consider making this a matter of confidence.”

Bill C-2 focuses on four distinct areas of violent crime: serious gun crimes; drug and alcohol impaired driving; sexual exploitation of youth by adult predators; and dangerous and repeat violent offenders.

Even Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is urging Stéphane Dion to pass this crime bill. McGuinty said, “Stronger gun legislation which would serve to make our streets – particularly here in Toronto – safer, that’s been held up for some two years now,” McGuinty said. “Now it’s winding its way, in a very slow fashion, through the Senate. The Liberals have some influence over that. We want that to receive passage.” (Canadian Press, January 24, 2008)

Vellacott emphasized, “For some time now, the Conservative Party has been calling upon the Senate to pass C-2 expeditiously. Protecting society is a priority for this Conservative Government, not an afterthought.”

– 30 –

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