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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Harper government committed to opening new markets and creating jobs

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2011

SASKATOON – Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, today highlighted the Harper government’s commitment to opening new markets and creating jobs for Canadian businesses and workers.

“The economy remains our government’s top priority. With the economic recovery still fragile, we are focused on creating jobs and economic growth,” emphasized Mr. Vellacott. “That is why we are committed to opening new markets for Canadian businesses and Canadian workers.”

Prime Minister Harper was joined today by International Trade Minister Peter Van Loan and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz to launch free trade negotiations with Morocco. A free trade agreement with Morocco would be Canada’s first with an African country. It is yet another example of the Harper government opening new markets and creating new opportunities for Canadians. A Canada-Morocco free trade agreement would allow Canada’s businesses, workers and farmers to build on the \$375 million worth of products they currently export to Morocco annually.

“Our government’s ambitious free trade agenda is creating new opportunities for Canadian businesses and jobs for Canadian workers,” said Mr. Vellacott. “Today, our government launched free trade negotiations with Morocco. We have also recently launched negotiations with India and are working to a broad and ambitious trade agreement with the European Union. These free trade agreements mean jobs for Canadians and economic success for Canada.”

Since taking office in 2006, the Harper government has pursued an ambitious free trade agenda. In just five years, Canada has concluded free trade agreements with eight countries: Colombia, Peru, Jordan, Panama and the European Free Trade Association states of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The Harper Government is now in negotiations with close to 50 countries.

Canadian businesses and workers can compete with the best in the world, confident that the Harper government will continue to pursue an ambitious free trade agenda and entrench economic recovery through freer trade and open markets.

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