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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
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## **Child care allowance and GST reduction as Canada's birthday present**

**For Immediate Release**

**July 1, 2006**

**OTTAWA** – As Canadians celebrate their nation's birthday this year, they have some new benefits taking effect. In addition to nationwide parties and cultural festivities, important measures from the Conservative budget kick in this Canada Day. The Universal Child Care Benefit and the GST reduction commence at the beginning of July, notes Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott.

Effective July 1, Canadian families will receive \$100 per month for each child under the age of six. This can amount to \$1200 per child each year. "Along with extra money to increase child care spaces, this essential measure enhances parental choice and offers families the funds necessary to make important child care decisions," said Vellacott.

Beginning on Canada's birthday, many parents will be eligible for this much-needed benefit.

Canada Day also ushers in the 1% GST reduction. Effective July 1, the GST will be reduced from 7% to 6%. Vellacott said "in order to deliver tax relief for all Canadians, the Government has reduced the GST from seven to six percent this Canada Day, and in course of time will move it down to five percent. A cut to the GST benefits everyone – including those who have modest or low incomes – because it is the one federal tax that everyone pays."

The implementation of these changes will provide all Canadians with real financial benefits. Vellacott notes, "The Conservative government is committed to providing real choices and tax relief to all Canadians."

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