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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Conservatives table legislation to scrap long-gun registry

For Immediate Release

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Maurice Vellacott (MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) is very pleased with the actions taken by the Conservative government to eliminate the costly and ineffective long-gun registry. “Canada’s new government is keeping its promise to scrap the failed long-gun registry. This government is committed to effective gun control. We need to target criminals – not duck hunters and farmers,” Vellacott said.

On June 19, Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day tabled a Bill to repeal the long-gun registry. The legislation introduced by Minister Day will repeal the requirement to register non-restricted long-guns and will require firearms retailers to record all sales transactions of non-restricted firearms. Canadians will still be required to have a valid firearms license to purchase or possess firearms and to purchase ammunition.

Prohibited and restricted firearms will still require registration. When Parliament resumes in the fall, the proposed legislation will follow the normal procedures and will ultimately be brought forward for a vote.

In the meantime, the government has put measures in place to assist current long-gun owners by introducing a one-year amnesty. This will protect previously-licensed owners of non-restricted firearms from prosecution. Hopefully the new legislation to repeal the long-gun registry is approved, before the amnesty expires on May 17, 2007, whereafter firearms owners will have to be in compliance with whatever firearms’ laws and regulations then are in place.

Canadians from coast to coast can review the proposed legislation at http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-21/C-21_1/C-21_cover-E.html. “The new government is dedicated to effective gun control that works for Canadians. If you have any concerns or would like to voice your opinion on this issue, please contact my office” said Vellacott.

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