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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Government of Canada supports project commemorating 1885 Battle of Duck Lake

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2010

DUCK LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN – On behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament (Saskatoon–Wanuskewin), today announced funding for the Duck Lake Historical Museum Society.

Funding will assist the Society in the production of an exhibition and publication marking the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Battle of Duck Lake. This commemorative project will examine the events surrounding the Battle of Duck Lake from a uniquely Aboriginal perspective, encompassing both Métis and Cree interpretations of the battle, as well as the more widely known accounts recorded by the Northwest Mounted Police and settlers to the area. Materials will be presented in English, French, Cree, and Michif. In addition, area students will have the opportunity to participate in an educational storytelling program concerning the events of 1885.

The Battle of Duck Lake occurred on March 26, 1885 between forces of the Métis Provisional Government of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Mounted Police and is generally considered to be the instigating battle of the Northwest Resistance.

“The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage,” said Minister Moore. “We are proud to support an initiative that will document and bring to light the Aboriginal perspectives on the Battle of Duck Lake and that will provide Canadians with a complete picture of this important historical event.”

“Our Government is committed to increasing public awareness and understanding of the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal Peoples, and this project does just that,” said Mr. Vellacott. “This exhibit will ensure the preservation and presentation of Saskatchewan Cree and Métis heritage.”

“The Duck Lake Historical Society is truly dedicated to telling the stories of the people of this region from all perspectives,” said Céline Perillat, Administrator of the Duck Lake Historical Museum Society. “This is why we are so pleased to receive this funding. It allows us to fulfill our mandate in fostering awareness and understanding of our cultural heritage, history, language, and people and will ensure a continued legacy for future generations.”

The Duck Lake Historical Museum Society is a non-profit charitable organization that operates the Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre. The Centre is home to a museum and art gallery and showcases collections of artifacts relating to First Nations, Métis, and pioneer history from 1870 to 1905. It is located in close proximity to the Batoche National Historic Site, Fort Carlton Provincial Historic site, and the historic Métis settlements of La Petite Ville and St. Laurent.

The Government of Canada has provided funding of \$13,428 through the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This program provides funding to Canadian museums and related institutions for projects that foster excellence in museum activities and that facilitate access to the treasures of our collective heritage.

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