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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

## **Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada**

**For Immediate Release**

**March 31, 2010**

**OTTAWA** – Prime Minister Stephen Harper today made the following remarks in the House of Commons on the 50th Anniversary of the First Nations’ Right to Vote:

“Mr. Speaker, today is an historic day. It was 50 years ago that Prime Minister Diefenbaker extended the right to vote to all First Nations people in this country. There is nothing more fundamental than our right to choose those who govern us, and obviously all advances for Aboriginal people since then have been based on that step forward.

“In the recent Speech from the Throne, we committed to carrying this work forward with additional work to promote the rights of Aboriginal people, to promote infrastructure for Aboriginal people, education, and child and family services. We want to ensure that our Aboriginal people are full partners and have the full opportunities of Canadian society.”

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