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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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

## **Matrimonial Real Property**

**For Immediate Release**

**March 31, 2010**

**OTTAWA** – Today, Senator Nancy Ruth tabled legislation to extend matrimonial real property rights and protections to First Nations people living on reserve.

Our government believes it is unacceptable that First Nations people living on reserve are currently deprived of rights and protections just because of where they live.

Currently, there is no legal safety net to prevent on-reserve residents from being expelled from their family home if their spouse dies, or if the marital relationship ends.

As a result, many individuals, particularly women and children, are left in dire situations that can lead to homelessness and poverty.

Our legislation would provide people living on reserve immediate means to fairly divide the family home when facing the breakdown of a relationship or death of a spouse. It would also provide protection in instances of family violence.

The proposed legislation would apply to approximately 600 reserve communities, affecting more than 75,000 individuals who are currently without legal matrimonial real property protections.

The Government will continue work to advance and uphold the rights and freedoms of Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

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