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## **Significant Farm Support Announcement**

**For Immediate Release**

**March 9, 2007**

**OTTAWA** – Today, on the Don Cote farm just outside of Saskatoon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced two new commitments totalling \$1 billion in improvements to national farm income programs.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin remarked, “These investments are the next important step in fulfilling Canada’s Conservative Government’s commitment to replace the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) program.”

MP Maurice Vellacott further stated, “Today, our government is taking another step forward for farmers beginning to replace the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program with programming that is more predictable, bankable and enables them to better respond to rising costs.”

Of the funds being announced today, \$600 million will be used to kick-start the new savings account program.

The money is anticipated to flow just as soon as an agreement is reached with the provinces and territories and agreement is reached with financial institutions to manage the producer accounts.

Vellacott commented, “Canada’s New Government looks forward to the provinces and territories joining in the cost-sharing that lies at the heart of the new farm savings program.”

Vellacott explained, “Because the cost-of-production crunch is urgent and acute, another \$400 million will be paid directly to eligible producers to compensate them for income declines due to price and cost pressures.”

Vellacott emphasized, “But before Canadian farmers can realize the benefits of these direct payments and the new savings account program, our government’s upcoming budget must be passed by the end of the month. Members of the opposition parties need to think about Canada’s farmers when they are determining how to vote on the upcoming federal budget in the days after March 19. Our hard-working farmers deserve our support.”

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