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Social Development Partnership Program – Disability Component

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2007

OTTAWA – Today, Minister Solberg announced a Call for Proposals for the Social Development Partnership Program–Disability Component. Under that program, \$1.1 million in funding will go to support projects in the non-profit sector that help people with disabilities to more fully participate in society.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, says, “Through the Social Development Partnership Program–Disability Component we’re investing \$1.1 million to support non-profit organizations that provide services to people with disabilities. Canada’s Conservative Government supports Canadians with disabilities and their families by helping them achieve independence and self-reliance in order to more fully participate in society.”

Vellacott added, “Budget 2007 invests \$140 million over the next two years to establish a new Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The RDSP will help parents and others save toward the long-term financial security of persons with severe disabilities.”

As well, Vellacott said, “We established the Enabling Accessibility fund and have invested \$45 million over three years to contribute to the capital costs of construction and renovations related to physical accessibility for persons with disabilities.”

Vellacott remarked, “Our Government signed the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities – something the Liberals failed to do.”

Vellacott cited Canada’s New Government’s other related provisions:

- \$30 million over five years for the Spinal Cord Injury Transnational Research Network, established by the Rick Hansen Foundation;
- \$20 million toward the operating costs of the 2010 Paralympic Games in British Columbia; and
- \$233 million to support programs delivered by the provinces and territories that help people with disabilities find and keep meaningful employment.

Budget 2006 increased the Child Disability Benefit to \$2,300, extended the Child Disability Benefit to middle- and higher-income families, and increased the refundable medical expense supplement for families with children with disabilities.

The Call for Proposals for the Social Development Partnership Program–Disability Component will close on May 27, 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/>.

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