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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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

For Immediate Release

Monday, May 8, 2006

**STATEMENT BY MAURICE VELLACOTT**

“Yesterday, while giving an interview to CBC, I shared my views about the appropriate role of judges and the necessity of judicial restraint. I alluded to Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin’s Lord Cooke Lecture given on December 1, 2005 at the University of Victoria in Wellington, New Zealand. I may have given the impression that in that speech she said verbatim that she had “god-like powers.” I acknowledge that Ms. McLachlin did not literally use those words. I regret the misunderstanding that was created. I extend my apologies to her in this regard.

As I’m not a member of the cabinet, I obviously do not speak for the Government of Canada on these matters.

For my part, I appreciate the important role judges play in our justice system as they rule in respect to the written laws and written constitution of Canada. I respect the independence of our judges as a fundamental aspect of a free and democratic society.”

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