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Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Today, Minister Solberg announced a \$223 million investment for the extension of Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities.

Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Maurice Vellacott indicated that the Conservative Government believes that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to our vibrant and growing economy and it is taking action to make that happen.

Vellacott said, “We’re investing \$223 million to support programs delivered by the provinces and territories that help people with disabilities find meaningful employment.”

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.

Vellacott said, “Our Conservative Government 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 enthused, “Our Government signed the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.”

The funding will support programs delivered by the provinces and territories that help people with disabilities to prepare for, find and keep good jobs.

The Government of Canada also:

- Provided \$30 million over five years for the Spinal Cord Injury Transnational Research Network, established by the Rick Hansen Foundation;
- Provided \$20 million toward the operating costs of the 2010 Paralympic Games in British Columbia;

and 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.

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