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Canada's New Government introduces new measures to protect Canadians from dangerous offenders

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OTTAWA – On October 17, 2006, Canada's New Government introduced legislation to provide tougher sentences and more effective management of individuals convicted of sexual or violent offences in Canada.

MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) says, "Constituents from across the riding have told me they want action on crime. We are delivering."

Vellacott says, "As part of our commitment to tackle crime, our New Government has tabled legislation that will impose stricter conditions on repeat offenders to keep such criminals from offending again and again."

The proposed legislation will:

- Put the onus on offenders convicted of a third violent or sexual offence to prove that they should not be declared dangerous offenders. Those who fail to do so will be subject to an indeterminate jail sentence, with no eligibility for parole for seven years.
- Increase the maximum duration of peace bonds from 12 to 24 months, which will allow additional restrictions and conditions to be placed on the actions of released criminals.

Vellacott says, "Our justice system generously gives second and third chances. But at some point, governments must draw the line to protect the public and this bill will do just that."

Since assuming office, Canada's New Government has introduced a number of initiatives aimed at tackling crime and protecting the safety and security of Canadians. These include legislation to end conditional sentences for serious offences, to implement mandatory minimum sentences for crimes involving guns, to raise the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16 years and to crack down on street racing.

Vellacott concluded, "The tabling of dangerous offenders legislation marks another step in our agenda to tackle crime and protect the Canadian way of life. I hope the opposition members work with us to pass these pieces of legislation as soon as possible for the safety of the Canadian public."

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