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Vellacott Applauds Tabling of Canada's Clean Air Act

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Today the Minister of the Environment tabled the Government's Clean Air Act and Notice of Intent in the House of Commons. Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, who sits on the House of Commons Environment Committee, says the Clean Air Act will set in motion the country's first comprehensive and integrated approach to tackle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Commissioner of the Environment has indicated that air quality has worsened under the previous government. As a result, there has been an increase in the incidence of diseases and deaths attributed to air pollution.

Vellacott says, "Canada's New Government is different. It will tackle this problem head-on and deliver real, measurable solutions to improve air quality and address climate change. Voluntary agreements have produced few tangible results."

Vellacott said, "This is the first government that will regulate emissions. Regulated and enforceable targets will ensure that we achieve our environmental objectives; we are regulating the auto sector for the first time ever; we are proposing new tougher standards on air pollutants; we are proposing new regulation to deal with hazardous pollutants from consumer products such as paint, ink, and spray cans; we will monitor polluters and fine those who do not meet their targets; we are proposing a solution where we would reinvest the environment fines into a fund that will help us clean the environment."

Environment Minister Rona Ambrose has indicated that the Conservatives will collaborate with industry to set sensible targets and realistic timelines.

The Conservatives tout their approach as addressing both air pollutants and greenhouse gases and providing a comprehensive solution to protect the health of Canadians and the environment.

Vellacott concluded, "Canada's Clean Air Act is important and necessary. Canada's Clean Air Act will deliver the cohesion, the fairness, the certainty and the accountability that previous approaches lacked. Canada's Clean Air Act needs to be passed in the House of Commons, so all Canadians can breathe easier."

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