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## **Statement by MP Maurice Vellacott in Celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's History Month**

**For Immediate Release**

**October 25, 2006**

**OTTAWA** – MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) today issued the following statement in celebration of the 15th annual Women's History Month:

“This year, Women's History Month is focusing on Aboriginal Women – Canada's First Women. Aboriginal women have always been key to the success of their families and communities, but their contributions have often gone unacknowledged. Now aboriginal women are taking on increasingly prominent leadership roles as artists, athletes, educators, health professionals and politicians. In a significant way they are changing the course of history.

Canada's new Conservative Government is also changing the course of history. Vellacott has argued in the House of Commons Aboriginal Committee that for too long Canadian law has denied equality to native women living on reserves by failing to recognize their matrimonial property rights. The new Conservative government is now beginning to take action to right this historical wrong and make sure that aboriginal women living on reserves have the same matrimonial property rights as all Canadian women.

Vellacott emphasized, “Women's History Month is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of aboriginal Canadian women who contribute so much to our country.”

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