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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Vellacott's mail piece proved prescient about Stoffer's lack of resolve to scrap long-gun registry

– Outcome decided by NDP Stoffer's vote in support of long-gun registry –

For Immediate Release

September 23, 2010

OTTAWA –Yesterday in the House of Commons the NDP MP Peter Stoffer's vote to keep the long-gun registry was the deciding vote in support of the long-gun registry. The vote was 151 to 153. If Peter Stoffer had kept his word to his constituents and voted to scrap the long-gun registry, the vote would have been tied 152 to 152, but it was assumed, that on these rare tie breakers when the Speaker gets to vote, that Peter Milliken following tradition would vote in favour of Conservative Candice Hoepfner's bill "in order to continue the debate" at Report Stage and Third Reading in the House, prior to the Senate process. Thus it came down to Stoffer's vote that kept the long-gun registry alive!

Vellacott said, "Last year, Stoffer objected when I and the Conservative Party drew attention to his apparent lack of resolve on the long-gun registry issue. Stoffer did not show up to vote against a Bloc motion supporting the long-gun registry. That showed he was soft on the issue." (Division No. 48, Wed. April 22, 2009, in the name of the Bloc Member for Marc-Aurele-Fortin, Serge Menard)

The 10%er communication piece that Vellacott sponsored into Stoffer's riding said – "your MP Peter Stoffer worked to support the registry AND end the amnesty" in reference to the Bloc motion. Not showing up for that vote was seen as tacit support for the long-gun registry.

"It would seem that mail piece was quite prescient in stressing Stoffer's lack of resolve and ambivalence about abolishing the registry. As a result of last night's vote, it is now evident to all that MP Peter Stoffer did his crucial work to support the long-gun registry," said Conservative Party MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin).

"Regretfully, especially for millions of rural Canadians, Liberal and NDP MPs turned their backs on their constituents and voted to keep the long-gun registry, under pressure from their Ottawa bosses. The Conservative Party does not believe in treating law-abiding hunters, farmers, and sports shooters as criminals," said Vellacott.

"We had hoped that MPs from all parties would have voted on the basis of facts, not sensationalized

media stories,” said Vellacott. “Trust-worthy firearms owners and shooting sport enthusiasts are tired of being the target of soft-on-crime NDP, Liberal and Bloc politicians who fail to see who the real culprits are – gangs and organized crime,” Vellacott added.

Vellacott confirms, “The Conservative Party will continue to work to scrap the long-gun registry. It will be a significant issue in the upcoming election.”

Noting that this is the furthest the Conservatives have come to dismantling the \$2-billion long-gun registry, Vellacott believes the tide has turned in the country on this issue, and that it is inevitable that the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry will be scrapped in due time.

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