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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Vellacott pays tribute to Children's Day

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2010

OTTAWA – MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, SK) recognized Children's Day today in the House of Commons. He said:

Mr. Speaker, Today – April the 23rd – and during the weekend, Canadians of Turkish origin, together with fellow Canadians, will celebrate “Children's Day.”

On April the 23rd, 1920, the founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, convened the Turkish Grand National Assembly and dedicated this day to children. By doing so, Ataturk not only entrusted the future of his young nation to her children, but also showed the world the importance he placed on the health and education of young people.

In 1979, UNESCO proclaimed the year as the International Year of the Child. Today, April the 23rd is celebrated with children from over sixty countries around the world including Turkey and Canada. This is now a 30-year tradition in Canada.

Tonight in Ottawa, in commemoration of Children's Day, the Turkish community will be hosting a fundraising gala dinner, and the benefits will go to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and SOS Children's Villages. Let's congratulate the organizers and wish them every success in their activities.

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