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Maurice Vellacott, MP
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Vellacott confesses that he was rooting for Dion to be Liberal leader

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OTTAWA – Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott says he is glad that the Liberal Party has finally selected a new Leader. Vellacott was rooting for Stéphane Dion. He says, “I congratulate Stéphane Dion. I am glad that this process is over, because for the past 10 months Canadians have been presented with a false choice. On one hand, they’ve had an actual government to watch to assess and to judge. But on the other hand, they’ve had a mystery opponent, an ‘all things to all people’ Liberal alternative with competing leaders, competing policy options and competing records. This is no more. Canadians will now have a clear choice. They will choose between the clarity, consistency and record of Prime Minister Harper versus Stéphane Dion.”

Vellacott says that the facts about Mr. Dion are clear. “In Prime Minister Harper, Canadians have a leader who knows who he is, knows where he stands and gets things done. In Stéphane Dion, the Liberals have a weak leader with a failed record who admits to having difficulty setting priorities.”

“As Liberal leader, Dion wants to give Canada the same failed Liberal policies of the past while replicating the Liberals’ do-nothing approach to governing.”

Vellacott remarked that, “Stéphane Dion was in the Chrétien and Martin cabinets during the Sponsorship Scandal, HRDC Boondoggle, and Gun Registry overruns and did nothing to speak up on behalf of hard-working taxpayers. Stéphane Dion was a failure as Environment Minister: Under Dion’s watch, GHG emissions in Canada rose to almost 35% above Kyoto targets, leading the Office of the Auditor General of Canada to conclude that the Liberal government ‘was not up to the task’ of managing climate change.”

Vellacott continued, “Mr. Dion also represents the old Liberal way of directionless government, admitting difficulty in setting priorities. Mr. Dion’s lack of respect for provincial jurisdictions will make him a very hard sell in Quebec, where Liberals are no longer the federalist option.”

Vellacott concluded, “I am confident that when the time comes Canadians will opt for the clarity, consistency and record of Prime Minister Stephen Harper over Stéphane Dion.”

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