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## **Helping people with disabilities**

**For Immediate Release**

**February 19, 2007**

**OTTAWA** – Friday, Minister Solberg announced \$223 million investment for the extension of Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities. The funding will support programs delivered by the provinces and territories that help people with disabilities to prepare for, find and keep good jobs.

Maurice Vellacott (MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) says, “Canada’s New Government believes that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to our vibrant and growing economy and we are taking action to make that happen. Canada’s New Government is committed to helping people with disabilities.”

The Conservative Government is investing \$233 million to support programs delivered by the provinces and territories that help people with disabilities find meaningful employment.

In Budget 2006 the Conservative Government increased the Child Disability Benefit to \$2,300, extended the Child Disability Benefit to middle- and higher-income families, and increased the refundable medical expense supplement for families with children with disabilities.

Earlier this month Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canada’s New Government will provide \$30 million in funding for the Spinal Cord Injury Translational Research Network. Spearheaded by the Rick Hansen Foundation, this initiative was developed by the leading researchers and clinicians in Canada.

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