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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Tackling Violent Crime Act receives Royal Assent

For Immediate Release

February 28, 2008

OTTAWA – Today, MP Maurice Vellacott paraded down the hall with his colleagues to the Senate to see Bill C-2, the Tackling Violent Crime Act, receive Royal Assent. This new law contains long awaited measures that will help safeguard Canadians against those who commit serious and violent crimes.

After two years of delay and obstruction by the Liberals in the House of Commons and Senate, the Conservative Government tackling violent crime legislation is now law.

Vellacott, the MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin indicated, that as a result, the days of soft, lenient penalties are over.

Vellacott expressed his approval that, as a consequence, dangerous criminals who threaten our communities will now get the jail time and penalties they deserve.

Vellacott pointed out the five areas in which The Tackling Violent Crime Act strengthens the Criminal Code: tougher mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes; new bail provisions which require that those accused of serious gun crimes show why they shouldn't be kept in jail while awaiting trial; better protection for youth from adult sexual predators by increasing the age of protection for sexual activity from 14 years to 16 years; more effective sentencing and monitoring to prevent dangerous, high-risk offenders from offending again; and new ways to detect and investigate drug-impaired driving and stronger penalties for alcohol impaired driving.

Vellacott said that, along with his Conservative colleagues, he was proud to have pushed for these changes for the past two years, so that families and communities across Canada can feel safer.

Vellacott said, "Our Conservative Government will continue to deliver on what is important to Canadians – the safety and security of their communities – because protecting society is a priority for this Government, not an afterthought."

– 30 –

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