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Vellacott says “no election” over Kyoto Private Member’s Bill

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OTTAWA – Today, the front page story in the National Post suggests a Liberal private member’s bill on the Kyoto protocol would force Canada’s Conservative Government to either implement the bill, or call an election. “This could not be further from the truth,” says Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott, who sits on the House Environment Committee. Today Vellacott said, “Bill C-288, put forward by MP Liberal Pablo Rodriguez, has no mechanisms for enforcement, which renders it toothless.”

Rodriguez was removed from the Environment Committee by the new Liberal leader, Stephane Dion.

Vellacott stated, “Canada’s New Government is not going to call an election over a private member’s bill that has no substance, no plan, and is basically an empty motion.”

Vellacott noted, “The Speaker has ruled that this bill is not a money bill, and therefore not a matter of confidence. The bill does not require the expenditure of money – so it accomplishes nothing.”

Vellacott lamented, “The Liberals have been passing empty declarations such as this one for the entire 10 years that I’ve been an MP, and it hasn’t worked.”

Vellacott characterized this approach as “the Liberal’s way, not ours.” He went on to say, “It’s a familiar pattern for the Liberals when it comes to reducing emissions and greenhouse gases: all talk, no action.”

Vellacott reiterated, “The Liberals have been passing empty declarations, and meaningless motions such as this one for 10 years and it hasn’t worked. Greenhouse gases have gone up, not down.”

Vellacott emphasized, “Canada’s New Government is moving forward with real action on the environment, not just empty declarations and empty promises like the previous Liberal government.”

Vellacott listed what he felt to be the important environmental actions of Canada's New Government:

- Within months of taking office, our government invested in tax credits and new funding to increase public transit ridership – removing the equivalent of greenhouse gas produced by 56,000 cars from Canadian roads every year.
- We rallied all governments behind the goal of reaching 5% renewable content in motor fuels over the next three years. That's the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars off the road.
- We invested \$345 million in the biofuels initiative which will reduce greenhouse gases by about 4 megatonnes each year.
- We invested \$2 billion into the ecoEnergy initiative; and
- We introduced the Clean Air Act, Canada's first comprehensive and integrated approach to tackle air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Vellacott concluded, "An election will inevitably come in the months ahead – but not over this empty Liberal motion."

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