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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

## **MP Maurice Vellacott perceives as insincere Axworthy's so-called apology**

**For Immediate Release**

**January 20, 2006**

**SASKATOON** – Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP and incumbent in the current election campaign perceives that Liberal candidate Chris Axworthy's apology rings hollow regarding the defamatory accusation of sexual assault.

Tuesday night on Shaw Cable, a caller phoned in falsely accusing front-runner Conservative incumbent MP Maurice Vellacott of sexually assaulting his church secretary at North Park Church. Vellacott has never been accused by any woman of sexual assault and was never a Pastor at North Park Church or ever in attendance there. North Park Church has been defunct since 1979.

The Shaw Cable technicians who have no 7 second delay cut the call off. Vellacott responded quickly by looking directly into the camera, stating to the technicians that he needed to get the name of that caller for defamation proceedings.

This morning on the radio, Axworthy indicated that Vellacott brings these kinds of allegations on himself because of the positions he takes on issues. "To justify defamation against any person is beyond belief," says Vellacott, who also notes that such comments show no genuine remorse.

Axworthy has also not yet taken any action to dismiss George Laliberte, the person who made the call from Axworthy's campaign office. Laliberte is a part of Axworthy's campaign and signed his nomination papers. "Without action, his apology is meaningless," said Vellacott.

Today, an affidavit was released from Dr. Tom Hengen who was George Laliberte's employer. During that time, Hengen trained Laliberte for public speaking, which required very close attention to the details of Laliberte's articulation, voicing, inflections, vocabulary and grammatical patterns of speech.

Laliberte is currently facing charges of theft over \$5,000 to be heard February 23, 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 4. The charges were laid by the Commercial Crime Investigation Unit of the Saskatoon Police Service. Axworthy needs to take immediate and decisive action against George Laliberte. Actions speak louder than words.

Yesterday, Axworthy suggested that the call could have been made by someone walking in off the street unobserved by campaign workers. “This claim lacks any credibility,” says Vellacott, noting comments he has seen on blog sites discussing that excuse. A blogger on <http://www.wakinguponplanetx.blogspot.com/> wrote that “A commenter on Andrew Coyne’s site lives in that riding and has been in the mall where the Liberals have their campaign office. He said that the phones are a good 20 feet inside the door, and that the area is very open; nobody could make phone calls using those phones without the campaign workers seeing them.”

Another blogger wrote sarcastically: “... someone walked into [Axworthy’s] office, conveniently left unlocked, on a busy campaign evening, sat down at a desk, sat on hold for at least several minutes, and then made perhaps the most libelous statement one could make, all without anyone ever seeing this mystery man.”

Vellacott again today challenges Paul Martin to distance himself from Axworthy and such sleazy, corrupt, dishonest actions so typical of the Liberal Party across the country over the last number of years. Vellacott says that in view of these sleazy tactics those individuals who signed Axworthy’s nomination papers should also disassociate from Axworthy. The names of Axworthy’s nominators for this election are on record at the Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Electoral Office at 275 First Avenue North and can be scrutinized by any member of the public between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm.

In addition to George Laliberte, Eric Hovius signed Axworthy’s nomination papers. Hovius was the originator of a website that misleads, perverts and rips things out of context in respect to Vellacott’s public service. Eric Hovius the originator of the website at first denied being at Axworthy’s office, but when caught in a lie by *StarPhoenix* reporter Darren Bernhardt, he acknowledged that he knows Axworthy and has spent time at Axworthy’s office. (Saskatoon StarPhoenix, Jan. 14, 2006)

As a side-note, Laliberte should not have even signed Axworthy’s nomination papers because he doesn’t even live in the riding.