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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Defamatory anti-Vellacott website will be prosecuted, says MP

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2006

SASKATOON – Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP Maurice Vellacott condemns the defamation against him on the pernicious anti-Vellacott website developed by Eric Hovius, an associate of Liberal candidate Chris Axworthy. Vellacott has confirmed that he will be proceeding with a defamation lawsuit against Hovius and others who are behind this operation.

The false and defamatory statements on that “Vote Out Vellacott” website are that Vellacott:

- “has a history of trying to intimidate and strong-arm his political opponents. It seems he spent his Christmas break this year trying to intimidate a Christian Heritage Party candidate into not running against him;”
- in the 2000 election “squashed a nomination challenge through decidedly undemocratic means;”
- “attempts to undermine a Reform candidate contesting a by-election because he didn’t share the same religious beliefs as Vellacott;”
- committed “political mail-fraud [that] cost you thousands of dollars;”
- “decided to pocket the allowance that MPs are given to rent accommodations in Ottawa;” and
- tried “to stop a 13-year-old child from getting potentially life-saving cancer treatments.”

Also, Hovius should know that the 2004 election complaint filed by Axworthy about the use of Vellacott’s mobile constituency office was dismissed by Elections Canada.

Eric Hovius’s website also falsely states that Vellacott does whatever he can “to suppress the rights of minorities, from women to the disabled, from homosexuals to aboriginal peoples.”

Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Liberal candidate Chris Axworthy and NDP candidate Jim Maddin are listed on this defamatory website as supporters. This seems to imply that they are complicit with Eric Hovius’s website, which misleads, perverts and rips things out of context, and defames, in respect to Vellacott’s public service.

By responding with widely disseminated, full, unequivocal retractions and apology, damages can be mitigated in the coming defamation lawsuit.

Vellacott has been urged by various people in the business community and other walks of life to take firm action against these defamatory attacks so that other quality people are not dissuaded from offering themselves for public service. Vellacott is also concerned that these libelous assaults will discourage our young voters from aspiring to public office.

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For further comment, call (306) 975-4725 or (613) 297-2249