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Paul Henderson as recipient of the Order of Canada would symbolize Canadian pride and unity, not Morgentaler shame and divisiveness

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OTTAWA – Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) renews his call for consideration of Paul Henderson as a recipient of the Order of Canada, in the face of the controversy surrounding abortionist Henry Morgentaler's receipt of the honour.

The broad-based outrage from across Canada in response to the Governor-General's decision to honour Morgentaler with the Order of Canada demonstrates that abortion is not settled in Canada nor can such a life and death struggle ever be.

In the aftermath of this distasteful decision, Maurice Vellacott, today, renewed his nomination for Paul Henderson as a worthy recipient of the Order of Canada. Paul Henderson was a star hockey player who gave Team Canada several winning goals against Russia in the famed 1972 series. Henderson, a well-rounded, hard-working Toronto Maple Leafs player, made it onto Team Canada. He was also one of the few members on the team who played every single game in that notable competition against Russia.

Paul Henderson scored Canada's winning goal in each of the last 3 games of that historic series against the Soviet Union. His winning goal in the final game has been counted the most important goal in the history of Canadian hockey.

Henderson has gone on to use his gifts and credibility to advance several charitable causes, lead nation-wide marriage seminars, and teach ethics in leadership. He has made great contributions to bettering the lives of many people throughout Canada.

Despite Paul Henderson's incredible contribution to Canada – especially the psychological boost and patriotic spirit which that hockey victory gave to Canada over 30 years ago – this star player has not been given the recognition he deserves.

Paul Henderson's series winning goal brought Canadians together in a great sense of national pride in sharp contrast to the shame and division surrounding Morgentaler's infamous actions over the years. Henderson's recognition with the Order of Canada would reflect a true spirit of national unity, rather than fomenting Morgentaler disunity.

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