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Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Vellacott and Conservative MP colleagues successfully lobby to extend Community Access Program

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Industry, today announced that Canada’s New Government will extend its support of the Community Access Program (CAP) by providing funding for 2007-08.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, said, “While technology, its affordability and use have evolved over the past decade, the government recognizes that CAP sites continue to bring a wide range of benefits to their users. We also appreciate how valuable CAP has become for many Canadians. That is why, after thorough consideration, we have decided to continue to assist Canadians in gaining affordable access to the Internet by extending CAP for an additional year, to March 31, 2008.”

A Government of Canada initiative, administered by Industry Canada, CAP provides Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and the skills they need to use it effectively. It operates through the combined efforts of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, community groups, social agencies, libraries, schools, volunteer groups and the business community.

Under CAP, public locations such as schools, libraries and community centres act as “on-ramps” to the Internet for people who might not have computers or Internet access in their homes or workplaces. CAP also provides affordable access to skills training, job searching and government online services. The program supports the goals of *Advantage Canada*, the Government of Canada’s plan to help all Canadians improve their quality of life, reach their full potential, and create strong communities.

“While the previous government considerably lowered funding levels for CAP for 2006-07, our government showed a commitment to CAP by providing additional funding for fiscal year 2006-07 and extending the level of funding past the program’s original closure date of March 31, 2006 to the end of 2007-08 fiscal year. The extension is in keeping with our pledge to work to improve opportunities for all Canadians,” said Vellacott.

CAP is also complemented by the Community Access Program Youth Initiative (CAPYI), which provides employment opportunities each year to more than 1500 young Canadians between the ages of 15 to 30 at various CAP sites across the country.

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