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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Canada's New Government Announces Diabetes Project for Aboriginal People in Saskatchewan

March 14, 2007

For immediate distribution

Saskatoon - Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Maurice Vellacott today announced, on behalf of Federal Health Minister Tony Clement, that Canada's New Government will contribute \$80,000 to the Live Well with Chronic Conditions for Aboriginal People Program. This initiative, in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region, Sunrise Health Region, Saskatoon Diabetes Outreach Program and Yorkton Tribal Council, promotes leadership and diabetes self-management among Aboriginal people so that they are better equipped to manage their condition.

"Canada's New Government is proud to support this initiative that will help to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginals with diabetes," said Mr. Vellacott. "This project complements other healthy living initiatives recently introduced by our government. It will encourage and empower those with diabetes to be active and confident in delivering their own treatment plans."

This initiative will train Aboriginal leaders to deliver a chronic disease self-management program with the support of local facilitators. Delivered in six two-and-a-half hour workshops, the program covers topics such as proper nutrition, exercise, problem solving, self-management skills and developing action plans.

Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in Canada and affects approximately two million Canadians. Physical inactivity and unhealthy eating habits leading to obesity play a major role in the onset and progression of type 2 diabetes. Although no cure is yet available, it can be managed. Educating Canadians at risk and their families about controlling diabetes is an important first step in preventing or delaying the complications that can arise from this disease.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has a number of resources and publications available on diabetes and its consequences. For more information, visit www.phac.gc.ca