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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Basic rights for First Nations women in regard to on-reserve matrimonial real property

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2008

OTTAWA – This week, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Chuck Strahl, and the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, Josée Verner, introduced legislation to resolve the longstanding issue of on-reserve matrimonial real property.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, applauds this action to remedy an inexcusable and longstanding legislative gap regarding on-reserve matrimonial rights. He's hopeful that this will significantly improve the lives of women and children living on reserves across Canada.

Vellacott says, "Our Conservative Government is moving to provide basic rights to on-reserve individuals to protect them and their children in the event of unfortunate relationship break-downs. This is a basic protection that off-reserve Canadians have had in place for quite some time."

Vellacott says that Ministers Strahl and Verner are taking concrete, practical action to fill an intolerable, inexcusable legislative gap that has existed for far too long.

Vellacott concludes, "Our Conservative Government is following up on its commitment to improve the lives of First Nations people by providing them with very similar rights and remedies enjoyed by other Canadians."

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