

**Saskatoon:**  
Unit 3, 844-51st St. East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5C7  
Tel (306) 975-4725  
Toll free (888) 844-8886  
Fax (306) 975-4728  
vellacott.mp@shawlink.ca



**Ottawa:**  
Suite 610, Justice Bldg.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel (613) 992-1899  
Fax (613) 992-3085  
Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca  
www.mauricevellacott.ca

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

## **Conservatives support safe streets and communities, not wasteful long-gun registry**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 17, 2006**

**OTTAWA** – Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott commends Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day for taking action to eliminate the ineffective long-gun registry.

“The Auditor General’s report has further shown us what law abiding Canadians have known all along: The Federal long-gun registry has been a monumental failure,” said Vellacott.

“The long-gun registry wasted tax-payers money on a program that never delivered. Billions of dollars have been wasted but our streets and communities are still plagued with gun violence. Canadians don’t want such bureaucratic waste,” added Vellacott.

The government has made the following immediate changes:

- transferring responsibility for the Firearms Act and regulations to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), taking over from the former Canadian Firearms Centre;
- reducing the annual operating budget for the program by \$10 million;
- implementing license renewal fee waivers and refunds;
- eliminating physical verification of non-restricted firearms; and
- introducing a one-year amnesty to protect previously-licensed owners of non-restricted firearms from prosecution and to encourage them to comply with the law as it currently stands.

“As well the government will table legislation to repeal the requirement to register non-restricted firearms,” said Vellacott.

“Simply put, the long-gun registry does not prevent crime,” noted Vellacott. “Instead, the Conservative government will put more police in the streets. We have also introduced legislation for mandatory minimum prison sentences for serious, repeat and violent crime and to put an end to the practice of conditional sentences and house arrest.”

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