

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



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Federal Accountability Act needs major rebuilding, urges Vellacott

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2006

OTTAWA – On November 9, 2006, the Senate returned the Federal Accountability Act to the House of Commons for third reading. After 141 days, the unelected Liberal-dominated Senate has finally returned the Federal Accountability Act to the elected Members of the House of Commons. This is compared to 72 sitting days it spent in the House of Commons.

Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP Maurice Vellacott said, “Sadly, the Federal Accountability Act has been gutted and ripped to shreds by the unelected Liberal-dominated Senate – which has been more interested in protecting the best interests of the Liberal Party than acting in the best interests of Canadians.”

Vellacott continued, “Liberal Senators moved over 110 amendments, most of which did real damage to the Act. Whereas Conservative Senators moved around 40 amendments to the Act, most of which were technical in nature, correcting clause-numbering errors, page-numbering errors, and ensuring the English and French were exactly the same. These Conservative amendments did little to reduce the effectiveness of the Bill.”

Some of the Liberal Senators’ amendments include: increasing the political donation limit from \$1000 to \$2,000; delaying implementation of the new Accountability laws until as late as 2008 – long after the Liberal leadership race is over; allowing all current political staffers to jump the queue and get priority placement over other applicants for public service jobs; removing the Wheat Board from inclusion under the Access to Information Act; and adding exemptions for foundations under the Access to Information Act.

Vellacott emphasizes, “It is now time for elected Members of Parliament to roll up their sleeves, and get down to work rebuilding the toughest anti-corruption laws in Canadian history as the Federal Accountability Act now comes back to the elected House of Commons to debate the Senate’s amendments.

Vellacott stressed, “We call on the opposition parties to work with us to do the right thing – repair the Federal Accountability Act and send it back to the Senate tougher and stronger than ever. Once

returned, we believe that unelected Liberal Senators should listen to the will of the people, and send the Federal Accountability Act on for Royal Assent.”

While Vellacott chastised the Liberal Senators who in his view were responsible for many unnecessary delays in holding up the Federal Accountability Act, he was adamant that serious blame must go to Liberal MPs and Liberal leadership candidates for not speaking out against their caucus colleagues’ dithering and foot-dragging. Vellacott closed by saying that, “If Liberal MPs wanted the Federal Accountability Act passed quickly, they could have compelled their Senate colleagues to do so. Instead, they sat back and let the Liberal Senate do their dirty work for them.”

– 30 –

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