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

## **Vellacott comments on VoIP phone services**

**For Immediate Release**

**November 20, 2006**

**OTTAWA** – Last week, in a speech to the Toronto Economic Club, the Minister of Industry announced that the government decided to require the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC) to refrain from economic regulation of “access independent” Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services (VoIP services requiring the use of a headset and computer) provided by traditional telephone companies like Bell and Telus.

MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) stated, “Canada’s Conservative Government is getting things done for taxpayers, for workers, for families and for consumers. We want to develop policies that put the consumer first, and this is one other example of that.”

Vellacott said, “Telecommunications is a key contributor to the Canadian economy. Canada has one of the most dynamic and competitive telecom sectors in the world but it is well past due for review. Canada’s telecommunications landscape has changed dramatically in recent years, and it’s time for our regulatory approach to evolve as well.”

Vellacott further elaborated, “Canada’s Conservative Government wants to create a more competitive environment in the telecom sector. A more competitive environment will translate into greater choice, newer products and better telecommunication services for the Canadian consumer.”

Vellacott continued, “VoIP telephone service represents a fast-growing segment in the Canadian telecommunications sector. In the last year, growth in VoIP services has progressed to the point where the government believes sufficient competition exists to allow for deregulation.”

Vellacott summarized, “The government’s decision to call on the CRTC to refrain from economic regulation of certain VoIP services is part of the government’s comprehensive policy agenda for telecommunications. This decision will ensure that our telecom industry remains strong and can compete on the international stage. Canada’s Conservative Government is currently modernizing Canada’s telecommunications policy framework. Key elements of this agenda are a greater reliance on market forces, and regulation only when necessary.”

Vellacott concluded, “I believe that this decision will ultimately benefit the consumer.”

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