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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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## **Repealing the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry**

**For Immediate Release**

**November 5, 2009**

**OTTAWA** – Last evening, Members of Parliament had a second-reading vote on Bill C-391, Candice Hoepfner’s Private Member’s Bill to scrap the long-gun registry. The vote to repeal the long-gun registry carried, with 164 voting “yes” and 137 voting “no.” MPs from all sides of the House had an opportunity to stand up and support the repeal of the wasteful, ineffective long-gun registry.

Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP, Maurice Vellacott declared, “This bill is straightforward and reflects our resolve to repeal the long-gun registry.” Vellacott stated, “The Liberal initiated long-gun registry is not cracking down on crime like the Liberals promised it would. It unfairly targets hard-working farmers and duck hunters, not criminals.”

Vellacott charged that, “Both NDP leader Jack Layton and Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff have been obstinate in their support for the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry.”

Vellacott cautions, “This is only the first step in the legislative process. It’s got to now get through a hostile, majority-opposed Justice Committee of MPs. If it gets through there without being gutted or significantly amended, we can hopefully pass it intact through Report Stage and Third Reading Stage back in the main Chamber.”

Vellacott noted, “Some Members vote a bill into committee so it gets closer scrutiny and witnesses pro and con appear to give testimony. So a Member’s vote at second reading is not a guarantee they’ll vote the same at Report and Third Reading stages. Assuming we get passage at Report and Third Reading, it then goes through the same number of stages in a Senate where the Liberals still have more Senators than the Conservatives. So there are still some hurdles. This statement of what’s ahead is not meant to discourage, but just to keep us all realistic.”

Vellacott emphasized, “Those Opposition MPs who supported this Private Members’ Bill last night at second reading must continue their support for ending the long-gun registry as it makes its way through Parliament.”

Vellacott stressed, “Constituents should urge their particular Liberal or New Democrat MP to take a consistent stand in the weeks ahead and lobby their respective Party not to obstruct the repeal of the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry. In this way, they will also be protecting the local way of life for their law-abiding constituents.”

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