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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Potash proposal, confidentiality and legal constraints

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2010

OTTAWA - The issue of potash has been in the news a lot lately. The various stakeholders have let their views be known. Some have pointed out that I and my Saskatchewan Conservative MP colleagues have not been expressing our views publicly.

As a Member of the Government Caucus, I am bound by the confidentiality provisions of the Investment Canada Act. Until the process is final, we are legally prohibited from discussing the particulars of any proposed transaction that is under review, under threat of criminal prosecution.

The Minister is charged with the responsibility of determining if the proposal is of net benefit to Canada. In the past the Liberals approved every single one of the proposals that was put before them. As Conservatives, we take very seriously the responsibilities incumbent upon us and will not be using the rubber stamp approach of the Liberals.

We understand the inherent value of this resource to the people of Saskatchewan and Canada and there will be a serious assessment of all elements in the determination of the Investment Canada Act criteria of 'net benefit.'

As I have, for more than 13 years, I will continue to give top priority to the best interests of Saskatoon-Wanuskewin constituents.

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