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Vellacott comments on Throne Speech

For Immediate Release

October 16, 2007

OTTAWA – On the day of the big event, Saskatoon-Wanuskewin MP Maurice Vellacott commented that, “The Throne Speech will frame the issues. There’s a mandate for the Government to govern on the priorities of Canadians, but there’s also the possibility of an election. That is really in the hands of the opposition parties. We want to govern, we don’t seek an election. We want to proceed on the priorities of Canadians with a Throne Speech that deals with their issues like the economy, the environment, and criminal justice. We want to move forward and make parliament work.”

As to the contents of the Throne Speech, Vellacott responds, “In broad terms as the Prime Minister has said: we will deal with the economy, criminal justice, the environment, and, as you saw last week, we want to have a responsible debate about the options available in terms of Afghanistan.”

Vellacott went on to say, “Deciding what legislation will be termed as confidence motions is obviously up to the Prime Minister. The legislation that we would put forward in the House through the Throne Speech will be the legislation that reflects the priorities of the Government. This Throne Speech, if affirmed by the opposition parties, will provide us with a mandate to govern and we’ll go about the business of getting the job done for Canadians. And if the opposition parties don’t want to do that either now or sometime down the road, then they will all join together on the issue and force an election.”

Vellacott reiterated, “The Throne Speech will frame the choice very clearly. We will move forward on the basis of the Throne Speech if it is affirmed. And as the Prime Minister has said, we expect that the House of Commons and parliamentarians will work with us to implement that mandate. If they choose not to at any time on a major substantive piece of the agenda, they could precipitate an election. That will be their choice.”

Vellacott said he is eager to get down to work on his government’s agenda. He notes that some important justice legislation has now been introduced by way of a bill placed on the Notice Paper.

Vellacott concluded, “This Government will continue to deliver on what is important to Canadians – one of those important issues to Canadians is the safety and security of their families and communities.”

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