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## **Strong Leadership for a Better, Stronger, Safer Canada**

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**OTTAWA** – Like the North Star, Canada has been a guide to other nations; through difficult times, Canada has shone as an example of what a people joined in common purpose can achieve. Yet Canada’s greatest strength lies in its energy and determination to move forward and build a better future.

Vellacott said, “Our Government is committed to strong leadership to realize that future. A Canada proud of its leadership in the world and confident in its economic future. A Canada built on a strong federation and a robust democracy. A Canada that is safe for our families and healthy for our children.”

Vellacott views this mid-mandate Speech from the Throne as providing an opportunity to frame the next phase of the Government’s policy agenda while highlighting accomplishments to date. Vellacott elaborated, “We continue to focus on being accountable and spending taxpayers’ money wisely; delivering real benefits to ordinary working people and their families; working cooperatively with the provinces and territories; and defending and advancing Canada’s interests and values in the world.”

Vellacott reiterated words from the Throne Speech, “The economy is strong, the government is clean and the country is united.”

Vellacott emphasized the Conservative Government's present five priorities of:

- Strengthening Canada’s sovereignty and place in the world through the realization of our strong Arctic vision and through a responsible, effective path forward in Afghanistan;
- Strengthening the federation and our democratic institutions through measures including formal limits on the federal spending power and through long overdue reform of the Senate;
- Providing Effective Economic Leadership by aggressively moving forward with broad tax relief that includes a further promised reduction to the GST;
- Tackling Crime and Strengthening the Security of Canadians by reintroducing important crime legislation with the new “Tackling Violent Crime Act” and by turning a strong focus to safe communities and dealing with youth and property crime;
- Improving the Environment and Health of Canadians by continuing to deliver realistic and achievable results in areas such as environmental enforcement, and product and food safety.

Vellacott concluded, “Our Conservative Government continues to improve life for Canadians and continues to deliver on its promises. We are building a better Canada!”

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