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Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

Tackling Violent Crimes Act

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Today, the Government of Canada introduced the Tackling Violent Crimes Act (Bill C-2), legislation that will ensure key reforms to Canada’s criminal justice move swiftly through the legislative process and finally become law. This legislation brings forth again significant crime bills that were extensively debated by Parliament during its last session, but never became laws due to Opposition’s stall and delay tactics.

Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin stated, “My constituents have told me that they want to see action - they want Parliament to move quickly and decisively to tackle crime and make our communities safer.”

Vellacott continued, “In the last session, our Conservative Government introduced important and timely legislation to tackle violent crime. Unfortunately, much of this legislation did not pass due to Liberal, NDP and BQ delay tactics.”

The bills that were obstructed were:

- C-10 (Mandatory Minimum Penalties for Firearms Offences) was stalled in committee for 252 days, and the bill died after a total of 414 days before Parliament.
- C-22 (Age of Protection) was stalled in committee for 175 days, and the bill died after a total of 365 days before Parliament.
- C-27 (Dangerous Offenders) was stalled in committee for 105 days, and the bill died after a total of 246 days before Parliament.
- C-35 (Reverse Onus on Bail for Firearms Offences) was stalled in committee for 64 days, and the bill died after a total of 211 days before Parliament.
- C-32 (Drug Impaired Driving) was stalled in committee for 149 days, and the bill died after a total of 210 days before Parliament.

Vellacott said, “Our Government immediately reintroduced these measures with a single, comprehensive, ‘Tackling Crime’ bill aimed to better protect youth from sexual predators, protect society from dangerous offenders, get serious with drug-impaired drivers and toughen sentencing and bail for those who commit gun crimes.”

Vellacott indicated this will include measures on:

- imposing mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes;
- enforcing tougher bail rules when a gun is used to commit a crime;
- increasing the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16 years;
- cracking down on drug-impaired driving; and
- ensuring that high-risk and dangerous offenders face tougher consequences when they are sentenced and are kept better track of to prevent them from offending again and again.

Vellacott says, “All the measures included in this legislation were studied in depth by Parliament in the last session. I see no reason why this legislation should not receive Parliament’s approval without delay. If the Liberal Opposition allows our Throne Speech to pass, they can’t obstruct our core priorities – including this comprehensive justice bill.”

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