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Vellacott speaks in the House to commend Prime Minister for Indian residential schools' apology

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Maurice Vellacott made the following statement in the House of Commons today:

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Speech from the Throne's reference to an apology by the Prime Minister on behalf of this government to former students of Indian residential schools.

My heart grieves when I think of the conversations I have had with First Nations people who recount some of the tragedies and dysfunction created by losing out on those vital formative years with their own family.

Some were driven to alcohol or other addictions to mask the yearning void in their lives, and without proper parenting role models, some perpetuated the cycle. My First Nations nephew and niece were born with fetal alcohol syndrome and it impairs their lives to this day.

Our government is committed to achieving a fair and lasting resolution to the sad legacy of the Indian residential school system, a resolution that will ensure former students and Canadians can move together toward healing and reconciliation.

Our government, together with its key partners, has made good on its commitment to deliver what it believes is a fair and lasting resolution of the Indian residential school legacy.

An apology by the Prime Minister is the right thing to do.

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