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Strengthening the Youth Criminal Justice Act

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2007

OTTAWA – Minister Rob Nicholson has announced that Canada’s New Government will be implementing a plan to strengthen the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA). He has also reaffirmed the federal government’s commitment to include deterrence and denunciation as principles of sentencing and strengthen pre-trial detention within the YCJA.

Maurice Vellacott (MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) said, “Canada’s Conservative Government is taking real steps to ensure our kids are not drawn into a life marked by drugs and violence.”

Vellacott continued, “Canada’s Government is committed to responding to the problems posed by youth crime and to using fair and appropriate measures to hold young people accountable when they break the law.”

Vellacott indicates he believes that our youth criminal justice system must effectively hold young offenders accountable for serious crimes with meaningful consequences; instill within them a sense of responsibility for their delinquent or criminal behaviour; and give them better opportunity for rehabilitation so that they do not re-offend.

The Harper Conservative Government will:

- amend the YCJA to include deterrence and denunciation as principles of sentencing;
- strengthen pre-trial detention within the YCJA; and
- launch a comprehensive review of the YCJA in 2008.

Vellacott concluded, “I hope that the opposition will work with us on these crucial issues to better protect our communities.”

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