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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

**Maurice Vellacott, MP**  
**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S INVESTMENT IN CANADIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES  
CELEBRATED IN SASKATCHEWAN**

**September 25, 2009**

**For immediate release**

**HAFFORD, Sask.** – On behalf of Canada's Environment Minister Jim Prentice, Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, joined representatives from the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve today to celebrate the recent announcement of funding to support Canada's Biosphere Reserves. The Government of Canada is providing \$5 million in funding over five years to 14 of the 15 biosphere reserves in Canada and the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association. This funding will provide the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve with \$57,000 per year through 2013.

"This funding commitment reflects the importance the Government of Canada places on protecting our rich biodiversity across the country," said Minister Prentice. "Canada's biosphere reserves are excellent examples of community-based initiatives that protect our natural environment while ensuring the continued growth of the local economy in an ecologically sustainable way."

"We would like to thank the federal government for its financial contribution and our provincial Members of Legislative Assembly for their ongoing support for preserving the biodiversity at Redberry Lake," said Larry Hawrysh, Chair, Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Association. "This is a great example of how rural communities and government can work together to revitalize the rural economy and develop sustainable economic models that include and preserve local biodiversity."

The Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve was designated as a biosphere reserve on January 21, 2000 by UNESCO. This reserve covers 112,200 hectares of rolling prairie, dotted with seasonal ponds and marshes characteristic of the Prairie Pothole region. The core area is a saline lake with several islands. This type of habitat is often considered the "nursery" for waterfowl production. There are small patches of mixed prairie, which is very rare in this highly grazed and cultivated part of Saskatchewan.

"Our government is committed to protecting and conserving the habitat our wildlife species need to thrive. Many species at risk can be found on the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve including rare and endangered plants and animals including the

Piping Plover, American White Pelican and fen orchid,” said Maurice Vellacott. “By fostering sustainable resource management practices, Biosphere Reserves enhance the conservation value of protected areas.”

Biosphere reserves are areas designated and recognized internationally by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) for demonstrating practical approaches to balancing conservation and development. Biosphere reserves are comprised of one or more core protected areas, a buffer area in which activities compatible with conservation occur, and a large area of co-operation where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed. The world network consists of 553 biosphere reserves in 107 countries.

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