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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Government of Canada supports seniors in Saskatoon & Borden**

**Saskatoon, SK, September 30, 2010**—Mr. Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, today announced federal support to the Federation des aines fansaskois, Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan Corp., Saskatoon Mennonite Care Service Inc., Saskatoon Public Library, Saskatoon Council on Aging, and the Borden Friendship Club under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. This program encourages seniors to continue to play an important role in their communities by helping those in need, providing leadership, and sharing their knowledge and skills with others.

Mr. Vellacott made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Seniors).

This project is funded under the Community Participation and Leadership component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program. It is one of 797 projects that were approved through the 2010–2011 Community Participation and Leadership call for proposals, providing over \$15.9 million in funding.

“The Government of Canada is committed to improving the lives of seniors, and is proud to support local organizations with the same goal,” said Mr. Vellacott. “This project brings new opportunities for seniors to contribute their skills, knowledge and experience for the benefit of the entire community.”

“Today’s seniors know the importance of being active and staying involved in their communities,” said Minister Finley. “The New Horizons for Seniors Program is just one example of how we are helping seniors make a positive difference in their own lives and in those of the people around them.”

The six organizations will receive a combined total of \$129,451 for their projects, which will promote a better understanding between the generations, enrich the lives of students and seniors, promote a transfer of skills, social interaction and reduce the risk of isolation. These projects will also create opportunities for leadership and networking, help establish community cohesiveness and provide an intergenerational activity between seniors, youth, and other community members.

Through *Budget 2010: Leading the Way on Jobs and Growth*, the Government invested an additional \$5 million per year in the Program, bringing this year’s funding to \$40 million. This additional funding will support projects that encourage seniors to volunteer and mentor other generations, as well as initiatives that aim to increase awareness of financial abuse.

The New Horizons for Seniors Program helps to ensure that seniors are able to benefit from and contribute to the quality of life in their communities through their social participation and active living. Since its beginning, the Program has funded over 7 000 projects in hundreds of communities across Canada. Last year alone, more than 100 000 seniors in over 500 communities throughout the country were involved in projects funded by the Program.

For more information about the Program, please visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors).

This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

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

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# backgrounder

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## **New Horizons for Seniors Program**

Across Canada, the New Horizons for Seniors Program helps ensure that seniors are able to actively contribute to and benefit from the quality of life in their communities.

The Program offers three types of funding to organizations:

1. Community Participation and Leadership funding (up to \$25,000 in funding per project). This funding supports community-based projects across Canada. The projects encourage seniors to continue to play an important role in their communities by helping those in need, providing leadership, and sharing their knowledge and skills with others.
2. Capital Assistance funding (up to \$25,000 in funding per project). This funding helps non-profit organizations that need to upgrade facilities or equipment used for existing seniors' programs and activities. It enables seniors to continue to lead active lives by participating in existing programs and activities in their communities.
3. Elder Abuse Awareness funding (up to \$250,000 in funding per project annually, over a maximum of three years). This funding helps non-profit organizations and coalitions raise awareness of the abuse of seniors at a national or regional level. Through this funding, new educational and awareness resources about elder abuse will be available to improve the quality of life, safety and security of seniors.

For more information on the Program, or upcoming calls for proposals, please visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors).