

Dear constituent,

The new Parliament has been sitting for about three months. In that short period, the Conservative Party has stepped up to the plate several times to fill the void in political leadership demonstrated by the Liberal government. We filled the Throne Speech with substance and direction that was lacking from the original version. We have pressed the government to demonstrate leadership on the mad cow crisis.

We refuse to accept the semantic change in the government's attempt to preserve the "artistic merit" loophole in their child protection bill. We continue to demand government action on behalf of forgotten hepatitis C victims. And we continue to provide a democratic alternative to a government that is trying to deflect criticism over its same-sex marriage agenda onto the Supreme Court.

I have been speaking out on numerous issues that concern you.

On BSE

I appreciate the fact that our Conservative Party requested this special debate on BSE, the very first debate in the new Parliament. That reflects the importance to the Conservative Party of agriculture. At this time, it would be well worth the effort of the minority government to be fully engaged in a lobbying initiative in the U.S., informing U.S. consumers that the high prices they are paying at present for beef and dairy products, and also the loss of jobs in their country due to the closing of some of those slaughter facilities, is a direct result of politics and has nothing to do with

food safety. I am now beginning to hear from constituents who have suffered as a result of the Liberal government's mis-managed CAIS program. We are demanding that the Liberal government set up agriculture policies that work.

On Same-sex marriage

The Conservative Party is absolutely committed to bringing the definition of marriage debate before Parliament. By its nature, marriage is heterosexual. Marriage pre-exists the state and religion. While it is appropriately recognized and regulated by the state and religions, it is not created or determined by them. Traditional marriage, between one man and one woman, provides a safe environment for human procreativity, and is the safest context for the nurture of children. The overwhelming view of constituents who have contacted my office by e-mail, phone, fax and letters is in support of heterosexual marriage grounded in our nature of two different but complementary genders.

On Hep-C

On October 15, I asked the health minister to act immediately to expand the hepatitis C compensation to victims outside the 1986 to 1990 group with the surplus that we now know exists in the hepatitis C compensation fund. The answer from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health was completely unacceptable. What hepatitis C victims need now is a health minister who understands basic math. There is a huge audited surplus in the fund and it will grow larger every year. We ask that the government commit to expanding the coverage immediately.

About Maurice Vellacott, MP

Family

Maurice Vellacott was born in 1955 and has been married to Mary since 1976. They have four children and two grandchildren. Mary is the daughter of George B. (deceased) and Mary Guenter of the Hague area, now of Warman. Maurice's grandfather, Peter H. Neufeld, operated a Warman garage for many years. Maurice grew up in rural Saskatchewan, and currently resides in Saskatoon in the constituency.



Education

Bachelor's degree at Briercrest Schools, a master's degree at Canadian Theological Seminary (University of Regina affiliated) and an earned doctoral degree from Trinity International University in Chicago.

Employment

Has been a small business partner/landlord. Maurice served as a pastor, a college teacher at Bethany in Hepburn, and a health care worker at Rosthern Mennonite Nursing Home and other institutions.

Memberships & Involvement

Has had involvement in the past and/or present with the Canadian Club, Canadian Palliative Care, Sask. Pro-Life, Sask. Landlords, Sask. Taxpayers, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Chamber of Commerce, North Saskatoon Business Association, Toastmasters International, supporter of Focus on the Family, founding Board Member of Real Choices Crisis Pregnancy Centre in Saskatoon.

Experience

- Elected to Saskatoon District Health Board, 1995
- Elected Reform Member of Parliament for the Wanuskewin Constituency, 1997
- Re-elected Canadian Alliance MP for the Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Constituency, 2000
- Served as Deputy Critic for Health
- Deputy Critic for Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), and Vice-Chair of HRDC Parliamentary Standing Committee
- Member, sub-committee on Status of Persons with Disabilities, HRDC
- Deputy Critic for Aboriginal Affairs, and Vice-Chair of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources
- Co-chair, all-party Pro-Life Caucus
- Member, Canadian Alliance Family Caucus
- Recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, 2002
- Re-elected Conservative MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Constituency, 2004
- Member, Committee on Official Languages

Maurice Vellacott, MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin



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Maurice Vellacott, M.P.
Unit 3, 844-51st St. East
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 5C7

Tel: (306) 975-4725
Toll Free: 1-888-844-8886
Fax: (306) 975-4728
Vellacott.mp@shawlink.ca

www.mauricevellacott.ca

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