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Myron Thompson, M.P.
Wild Rose, Alberta

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For Immediate Release

**RESPONSIBLE SPENDING IS HERE TO STAY,
SAYS THOMPSON**

Ottawa- Myron Thompson, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, says this week's responsible spending announcement is not a one-time exercise, it is the way Canada's New Government intends to manage tax dollars year in and year out.

"Earlier this year, the Prime Minister set out to review all expenditures and to find \$1 billion in savings to the Canadian people. Canadians had told him that they expect their hard-earned tax dollars to be invested responsibly in effective programs that meet their priorities. They were fed up with waste in government programs," said Thompson.

"After careful review, this week the Conservative Government announced that a strategy was in place to secure \$1 billion in savings this year and next as promised. The savings came from eliminating wasteful and ineffective programs, reducing government spending and paying down the national debt," stated Thompson.

"This was the first time in nine years that I will be able to report to the people of Wild Rose that program spending will actually decline. This is due in part because we have finally put an end to the previous government's end-of-year spending spree," said Thompson.

With regards to the debt, Canada's federal debt at the end of 2005-06 is now \$481.5 billion, down \$81.4 billion from its peak of \$562.9 billion in 1996-97. Federal debt as a percentage of gross domestic product is now at its lowest level in 24 years. "Owing to Canada's New Government's commitment to on-going debt reduction, the country's debt load is set to shrink further in the years ahead," said Thompson.

"I'm so pleased that we were able to reduce the debt, cut taxes and say yes to more resources for families, communities and public security, all because we have finally been able to say no to special interests and programs that simply do not work," concluded Thompson.

-30-

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