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Myron Thompson, M.P.
Wild Rose, Alberta

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For Immediate Release

**LIBERAL DOMINATED SENATE WEAKENS
FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

Ottawa- Myron Thompson, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, was disgusted this week with the amendments proposed by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, which will directly reduce the influence of the Federal Accountability Act.

"Canada's New Government received a mandate to restore accountability to government. We introduced the toughest anti-corruption legislation in Canadian history, which the unelected Liberal-dominated Senate has weakened for partisan purposes," said Thompson.

Liberal amendments to reduce the scope of the Federal Accountability Act include:

- Increasing the donation limit from \$1000 to \$2000;
- Delaying implementation of this bill until Jan. 1st of the year following Royal Assent, which would likely mean 2008;
- Allowing all current political staffers to secure priority placement jobs within the public service;
- Limiting the reach of the Access to Information Act in Foundations to only include information created after the Accountability Act's Royal Assent;
- Removing the Wheat Board from inclusion under the Access to Information Act.

"What is the Senate trying to hide by not including the Wheat Board under the Access to Information Act? As long as I've been in Parliament, farmers have been demanding greater accountability from the Wheat Board and this tradition of secrecy is likely to continue with these amendments," stated Thompson.

The Senate has had the Act for over 120 days. During this time, the government has made technical amendments, while Liberal Senators have made over 100 amendments designed to substantively weaken the provisions of the Federal Accountability Act to suit partisan Liberal Party purposes.

"The Liberals just don't seem to get it, they lost the last federal election because Canadians were fed up with Liberal corruption. Yet they continue to use their majority in the unelected Senate to hold on to the past. Clearly, they are out of step with Canadians," concluded Thompson.

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