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Myron Thompson, M.P.
Wild Rose, Alberta

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For Immediate Release

BUDGET PROCESS OPEN TO CANADIANS ONLINE

Ottawa- Myron Thompson, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, is encouraging constituents from Wild Rose to participate in the budget process online. This is the first time ever Canadians have had the opportunity to participate directly in the budget process.

The Minister of Finance, James Flaherty, today launched an online consultation process on the Department's website to give Canadians an opportunity to provide their views to the Government during the pre-budget consultation period.

"This approach opens the pre-budget consultations up to all Canadians, giving taxpayers in every corner of this vast country an opportunity to share their views. This is another example of how this new government is taking accountability and openness to a higher level," said Thompson.

"Minister Flaherty is seeking views and advice from all Canadians on how best to implement the Government's five priorities. As well as to identify areas where the Government can spend less or deliver programs in a more efficient and effective way," stated Thompson.

The web consultation page, including a background document, can be found on the Department of Finance's website www.fin.gc.ca.

Submissions can be made by e-mail at budget2006consult@fin.gc.ca or by fax at (613) 992-0938. As is customary, all views submitted via the web will be provided to the Minister and held confidential.

"As the Minister has stated, he is approaching the budget process like a typical Canadian family: setting priorities, making realistic choices and finding ways to live within our means. And like a family, all members should have input into this critical process because at the end of the day, it will reflect on everyone," concluded Thompson.

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