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For immediate release

<u>BÉLANGER IS DELIGHTED WITH THE ADOPTION OF HIS MOTION</u> <u>RECOGNIZING ISLAMIC HISTORY MONTH</u>

Ottawa, October 25th 2007 – Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier and Official Opposition Critic for Canadian Heritage, Francophonie and Official Languages, Hon. Mauril Bélanger, presented the following motion today in the House of Commons:

"That, in the opinion of the House, due to the important contributions of Canadian Muslims to Canadian Society; the cultural diversity of the Canadian Muslim community; the importance of Canadians learning about each other to foster greater social cohesion; and the important effort now underway in many Canadian communities in organizing public activities to achieve better understanding of Islamic history, the month of October should be designated Canadian Islamic History Month."

The Ottawa-Vanier MP was delighted that the House of Commons adopted this motion which highlights the important contribution of the Muslim community in Canadian society. "I encourage cultural exchanges between Canada's diverse communities, which make us a vibrant and dynamic society. I believe that by having a better understanding of our fellow Canadians from various communities and backgrounds that we will achieve a stronger and more cohesive country", said MP Bélanger.

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