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Kramp: Budget delivers on promises made

Ottawa, ON – Budget 2011 was tabled in the House of Commons yesterday and Prince Edward-Hastings Member of Parliament Daryl Kramp says it delivers all the promises for which the Conservatives campaigned and brings good news to local constituents, including families and seniors.

“This Budget follows up on all the initiatives and measures we promised and on which we campaigned during the last election”, said Mr. Kramp. “I am also pleased to see that many recommendations brought forward locally are included in this Budget. It shows that my constituents opinions and ideas count, and their feedback has helped forge the direction in which our government is going, said Kramp.

Local families and seniors will benefit from several significant new measures, which include:

- a Children’s Art Tax Credit – a 15 percent non-refundable tax credit on up to \$500 in eligible fees for programs associated with children’s artistic, cultural and recreational activities;
- Enhancing the GIS for eligible low-income seniors. They will benefit from an additional yearly sum of \$600 for single seniors and \$840 for couples;
- Enhancing the New Horizons for Seniors Program which adds \$10 million to promote volunteerism, mentorship and seniors social participation in their communities;
- a Family Caregiver Tax Credit – a 15% percent non-refundable tax credit on an amount of \$2,000 for caregivers of all types of infirm, dependent relatives, including for the first time, spouses, common-law partners and minor children; and
- Extending the EcoEnergy Retrofit Program to help families lower their heating and electricity bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

Mr. Kramp also points out some other items in the Budget which will help local constituents:

- \$20 million over two years to extend the Eastern Ontario Development Program, an initiative which allows local CFDC's to invest money in local business and create jobs here in Prince Edward-Hastings;
- A \$3000 Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit which provides tax relief to volunteer firefighters who courageously serve their communities;
- A new Hiring Credit for Small Businesses;
- Extending the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance;
- Support for Youth Entrepreneurs;
- Helmets to Hardhats Program which connects Canadian Forces Veterans with career opportunities in the construction industry; and
- A New Agricultural Innovation Initiative of \$50 million to help Canada's farmers remain on the leading edge of agricultural technology and innovations.

"I am pleased to see that the annual \$27 million subsidy paid to political parties will be removed. At a time when budgets are tight, our government believes that taxpayers should not be burdened with such costs", added Kramp. "This budget is an investment in jobs and people and we are committed to strengthening our economy, our country and our communities".