

# PRESS RELEASE

**Frank Valeriote, M.P.  
Guelph**



**For Immediate Release  
November 10, 2009**

## **VALERIOTE JOINS CANADIAN DELEGATION TO UN FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT IN ROME**

**Guelph-** Member of Parliament Frank Valeriote will accompany Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda as part of the Canadian delegation to the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, November 16 to 18. The Summit was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as part of the international community's efforts to address the devastating effects of rising food prices in developing countries.

Valeriote said his interest in the issue stems from his past experiences in international development and his efforts in the Liberal Party caucus to develop a comprehensive national strategy for Canada's own food safety, sovereignty, and security.

"As an active participant in international aid and micro-finance projects in the developing world I am keenly aware of the devastating effects of world hunger. The recent global economic crisis has exacerbated this problem tremendously," Mr. Valeriote said. "I know through consultations towards the creation of a national Canadian food policy that there are few areas of more critical importance in the lives of people everywhere. I believe it is absolutely essential that the developed countries take real action to ensure that the world's poorest regions have the tools they need to increase their own agricultural productivity. Food must be accessible, affordable and nutritional to all nations and helping developing countries create and maintain food security strategies is something to which Canada can make a significant contribution." he said.

At the Food Security Summit, Mr. Valeriote will join roundtable policy discussions regarding the development and implementation of an international framework to curtail the negative effects of a food crisis that is reaching catastrophic proportions. Largely due to higher food prices, the FAO estimated that the number of undernourished people in the world increased by 75 million in 2007 and 40 million in 2008, bringing the total number of people undernourished around the world in 2009 to over 1 billion.

"What we have seen over the past twenty years is a steady increase in hunger in all of the world's developing regions with the economic crisis sharply intensifying the problem over the past two years. With the United Nations now predicting that the world population will peak at 9.1 billion by 2050, one of the world's greatest challenges will be to eradicate hunger and to empower all populations with a healthy agricultural sector that reduces poverty and malnutrition, restores security and sovereignty to their food production and helps grow their economy. I am honoured and privileged to have been asked to be part of the Canadian Delegation and to be able to participate in next week's summit."

30-

*For further information, please contact:*

*Brenda Ciccio*

*Office of Frank Valeriote, M.P.*

*(519) 837-8276*

**OTTAWA OFFICE**  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
(613) 996-4758  
valerf@parl.gc.ca



**GUELPH OFFICE**  
40 Cork Street East  
Guelph, Ontario  
(519) 837-8276

