

PRESS RELEASE

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



For Immediate Release
November 17, 2008

Frank Valeriote points to economy and jobs as priorities for opening of 40th Parliament

The economy will be the top priority as the 40th Parliament opens this week, says Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament for Guelph.

“The economic outlook is gloomy, whether we are looking in my own community of Guelph or around the world,” said Valeriote. “These are tough times and all signs indicate they are going to get tougher. We need federal leadership and responsible fiscal management to weather this economic storm. Frankly, I am doubtful that sort of leadership can be found in the Conservative government. However, the Liberal Opposition will take every opportunity to point our country in the right direction.”

Valeriote was joined by his family and friends to be sworn into Parliament last week. He is also proud to have been appointed the Liberal Caucus’ Associate Critic for Industry with a focus on the auto sector.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for me and I look forward to working with my caucus colleagues in this minority Conservative government,” said Valeriote. “The auto industry, and particularly the auto parts industry, is enormously significant to Guelph. Canada cannot sit idly by while good Canadian jobs go south. We need a balanced strategy that provides aid to the industry while securing a commitment from the auto industry to keep jobs in Canada and make the transition to greener technologies.”

“The downturn in this industry causes a ripple effect that impacts everyone from the line worker to the minor hockey team sponsored by the local car dealership to the restaurant workers across the street from the parts plant,” said Valeriote. “Good jobs, like those found at our local parts manufacturers, are the lifeblood of Guelph’s economy. I will be fighting for these jobs to stay in Canada.”

Valeriote is calling on the Conservative government to include a commitment to the auto industry in the Speech from the Throne. The Canadian economy relies on the auto industry. Annual automotive exports are about \$100 billion and more than 150,000 Canadians are directly employed in the manufacture of completed vehicles and components and another 250,000 are employed in automotive wholesale, retail and leasing operations.

While the Conservatives have all but ignored the automotive sector, Valeriote is proud of the Liberal party’s long-standing commitment to the industry with major initiatives such as the creation of the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council; direct investments in assembly plants and in the border crossing at Windsor to ensure the uninterrupted flow of auto products; the creation of AUTO21, a network of Centres of Excellence involving over 30 Canadian universities and colleges conducting innovative research projects to shape the 21st century vehicle; and investments in strategic automobile research and development initiatives.

“I look forward to taking my seat in the House and working with my colleagues to offer a constructive opposition. In this time of economic turmoil, we will offer a strong voice to keep Canada’s economy strong,” said Valeriote. “That includes responsible investments, like those commitments made to our cities and communities for infrastructure funding. Canada’s economy grows with the success of communities like Guelph. We need to address the infrastructure deficit and job prospects to build a more prosperous economy in Guelph.”

-30-

*For further information, please contact:
Office of Frank Valeriote, M.P.
(613) 996-4758*

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