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Over 24,000 Northerners could lose the right to vote: NDP
Over a million across Canada affected

OTTAWA – Liberal and Conservative MPs turned their backs on Northerners and rural Canadians when they allowed a change to the *Canada Elections Act* could take the right to vote away from over a million people, NDP MP Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic) said today.

“Nearly 30 per cent of NWT voters, over 80 per cent of Nunavut voters and more than 16 per cent of Yukon voters could lose their right to vote because of this change made in haste,” said Bevington.

According to an October 15th report by Elections Canada, a change to the *Canada Elections Act* requiring voters to present identification showing a municipal address could remove the right to from over a million Canadians in the North and in rural areas. The report shows the vast number of people who could lose their right to vote:

- 1,012, 989 across Canada (4.36%);
- 3,702 in the Yukon (16.39%);
- 7,632 in the NWT (27.76%);
- 13,092 in Nunavut (80.75%);
- 91,000 in Newfoundland (23.21%);
- 4,280 in Prince Edward Island (3.99%);
- 14,021 in Nova Scotia (1.96%);
- 1,804 in New Brunswick (0.31%);
- 15,836 in Quebec (0.27%);
- 148,295 in Ontario (1.71%);
- 149,547 in Manitoba (17.99%);
- 189,731 in Saskatchewan (27.33%);
- 320,238 in Alberta (13.55%); and
- 53,811 in British Columbia (1.83%).

“The NDP tried, at committee and in the House of Commons, to make changes that would allow Northerners and rural voters who don’t have a municipal address to still be able to vote,” said Bevington. “Unfortunately, both the Liberals and the Harper Conservatives were in such a rush to pass this change they didn’t care about the harm they were doing to over a million voters.”

“Because of the lack of leadership by Liberal leader Stephen Dion and Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s rush to take Canada in the wrong direction, more than a million hard working Canadians are being told their voice may not count on election day,” said NDP Leader Jack Layton. “This is just another example of how the leadership challenged Liberals and the wrong headed Harper Conservatives are failing average Canadians.”

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