



PRESS RELEASE

**Wayne Marston, Member of Parliament
Hamilton East – Stoney Creek**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20th, 2014

A PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING ON THE PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

Ottawa – Members of parliament, senators, labour leaders and representatives from a broad array of civil society groups attended a briefing on Parliament Hill on the prospects for democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

The evening's keynote speaker was Do Hoang Diem (Diem Do), chairman of Viet Tan, a network of members inside Vietnam and around the world that aims to establish democracy and reform Vietnam through peaceful and political means.

Prominent lawyer and commentator on Vietnam-Canada relations, Khanh Vu Duc, was on hand to provide his insights into what Canada can do to promote human rights and democracy in Vietnam.

The host for the evening was Official Opposition Critic for Human Rights, Wayne Marston.

"The communist regime in Hanoi is facing many unprecedented challenges, " said Diem Do. "It is time to push for a peaceful transition to democratic rule in Vietnam. A free, democratic and stable Vietnam is in the best interest of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond."

"I am proud to have been able to host a meeting with such distinguished speakers, and hope in some small way tonight's dialogue will move the prospects for human rights and democracy in Vietnam a little closer to becoming reality," said Marston.

-30-

**For more information please contact:
Tom Allen, office of Wayne Marston, 613-219-0076
wayne.marston.a1@parl.gc.ca**