

We the People... ~~Politicians~~

A PERSONAL MESSAGE ABOUT CANADA'S FUTURE FROM FREEDOM PARTY LEADER ROBERT METZ

Dear Fellow Ontarians,

What kind of Canada will you choose to live in?

That's the real question we'll all be asked to consider on October 26. That's when the federal government wants us to "vote" on a fundamental proposal which will affect the future of our country for many years to come. Many supporters of a 'YES' vote have been calling it the "unity question", but unity has very little to do with what we're being asked. Instead, the question reads:

"Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28, 1992?"

Hidden behind this question is an agreement which consists of a series of proposals that will as surely split Canada apart as any that could possibly be suggested. To complicate matters further, the agreement consists of sixty lengthy clauses and numerous sub-clauses, most of them tragically flawed with the seeds of disunity, including many that are outrightly self-destructive irrespective of the unity question.

To ask that Canadians should reject or accept an all-or-nothing package of such magnitude is a tactic that smacks of gross manipulation. We are being led to believe -- by the very politicians who have been dismantling our country -- that a 'YES' vote in the October 26 "referendum" on our Constitution will make a positive difference to Canadians and save our country in the process.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The "compromise" that is being heralded as the saving grace of our nation is in fact the culmination of the very process that has brought Canada to the brink of disintegration. With opposing political principles, interests, values, and objectives of every province and special interest group being given "equal" consideration, it is somehow believed that a compromise based on these radically opposite ideas can save our country. It cannot work, because what is being "compromised" is our individual freedom itself.

It is as if, in the drafting of the Charlottetown agreement, our politicians specifically went out of their way to pick every fiscal and political policy that has brought our economy to ruin and divided our country as never before. Now they want to enshrine these destructive elements into the framework of Canada's constitution. What's even worse is that they want us to go along with it.

The Charlottetown agreement, like Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, is a document created by governments for governments. As London West MP Tom Hockin so clearly illustrated on a September 9 open-line show, Canada is a nation not founded on any preamble resembling America's "We the people..." but rather on the concept of "We the provinces..."

As a consequence, it is my belief that the October 26 referendum is simply a political smokescreen designed to give Canadians the illusion that their choices matter when it comes to the political structure of their country. By getting us to vote 'YES' to their non-binding referendum question, our politicians will be able to claim that they received our consent to continue ruling us without our consent.

And that's the fundamental problem with Canada's constitutional woes. Our constitutional "protections" are not drafted for the people, but rather, for the politicians. Until "we the people" have some real protection from our politicians and governments, the only "guarantees" we'll have is that the constitutional squabbling we have been witness to will drag on and on and on.

To be sure, by now most Canadians are sick and tired of watching politicians and special interests fight and squabble over Canada's constitution while the country is falling apart and our economy is in ruin. The entire constitutional debate has only been a political tug-of-war, with the winners receiving the privilege of monitoring and restricting languages, industry, taxation, the media, and all the many other areas of daily life which should never be intruded upon by governments.

A Canadian constitution that relies on regional or federal standards with multiple dangerous interpretations left open, guarantees a rocky road ahead. Canadians must have their rights defined uniformly so that no Canadian is required to sacrifice his or her language, work, money, thought, or life to the whim of any government. A Canadian charter must include a limit on taxation at all levels and a prohibition of government deficit financing, censorship, and laws that interfere with personal lifestyles.

A constitution can be the cornerstone of a stable, citizen-oriented nation. The only way our politicians can earn their right to govern is by proposing a mandate to which we are all entitled -- a mandate for freedom. Unfortunately, this is not what the August 28 Charlottetown proposals are based upon.

So whether we vote 'YES' or 'NO' to the government-initiated non-binding October 26 referendum, Canadians will continue to be left at the mercy of their various governments, with no guaranteed protection of "fundamental" freedoms, property rights, or freedom of choice. However, for the time being, a 'NO' vote will be the lesser of two evils since Canadians will be telling their politicians that they want a better deal for themselves. Conversely, a 'YES' vote will only prove that politicians can continue to fool most of the people most of the time.

For these and many other reasons, I'm voting 'NO' on October 26. My 'NO' vote will be a vote against the politicians -- and for the people.

Robert Metz

ONTARIO INFORMATION BULLETIN

(A Public Service Provided by the FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO)

On October 26 Canadians will be asked to participate in a federally-sponsored referendum where they will be expected to vote 'YES' or 'NO' to the question: "Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28, 1992?" Though the referendum is not legally binding, the results of the vote will be used by politicians for years to come to justify their future policies. How Canadians vote may well affect the future of Canada. Following are some conclusion highlights of Freedom Party's assessment of the August 28 "agreement". For full details of the agreement and our analysis, simply mail in the post-paid response card attached.

A REFERENDUM? NO.

The October 26 "referendum" is, in fact, a public opinion poll --- paid for by the very people who are being polled. It is not legally binding and is not national. (Quebec is conducting its own "referendum".)

DEMOCRATIC? NO.

A democracy demands an informed and unintimidated electorate. Canadians were given a remarkably short period of time to read and analyse a 22-page, 60-clause proposal for further constitutional negotiations. Details surrounding the proposals and the "referendum" itself are being manipulated and withheld while those conducting campaigns on the issue must report their activities to the very government that is promoting the 'YES' side of the issue.

AN AGREEMENT? NO.

The August 28 "agreement" is not a final agreement. It is a **BASIS** on which future constitutional discussions and further negotiations will continue.

FAIR? NO.

Canadians are being intimidated and subjected to scare tactics to get them to vote 'YES'.

FREEDOM? NO.

"It cannot be repeated too often that (a) Constitution is a limitation on the government, not on private individuals --- that it does not prescribe the conduct of private individuals, only the conduct of the government --- that it is not a charter for government power, but a charter of the citizens' protection against the government." --- Ayn Rand

A UNITY QUESTION? NO.

The August 28 proposals have nothing to do with unity. They are a blueprint for guaranteed disunity.

FOR THE PEOPLE? NO.

The August 28 proposals represent an exclusive deal made for politicians by politicians. Individual rights and private property rights are not protected under the proposals.

EQUALITY? NO.



The August 28 proposals grant unequal privileges to certain provinces, groups, and elected representatives. Even parliamentary representation is not equal under the proposals. Quotas based on sex or heritage would be allowable.

To receive your own free copy of Freedom Party's more detailed analysis of the August 28 Charlottetown agreement (including a complete reprint of the agreement itself), simply fill out and mail the enclosed post-paid card. Your comments, criticisms, and questions are welcome. Please call or write.

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Both sides of the card are shown on this page, below.

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Yes, I'm interested in what Freedom Party has to offer but I'd like to know more.
(Indicate with a check mark.)

☐ Please send me your free booklet on the Charlottetown Constitution proposals.

I'd like to help with this campaign. (Indicate with a check mark.)

☐ I'll help sponsor the production of these pamphlets. Send me a price list and the details.

☐ I'll give money towards your Canadian Constitution campaign. Please contact me.

☐ I'll attend Freedom Party's public forums on the the Constitution. Keep me informed.

☐ I'm interested in helping FREEDOM PARTY organize in my neighbourhood.

☐ I'd like a FREEDOM PARTY election sign in the next provincial election.

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