

# **On The Record!**

**Freedom Party  
in  
Action!**

1984 - 1994





# ON THE RECORD!

Since January 1, 1984, when Freedom Party officially became an Ontario political party, Fp members and supporters have been hard at work for freedom. Their consistent, principled approach to the issues has been the dominant factor in Freedom Party's growing success.

Freedom Party does not aspire to political standards set by other political parties. We set our own standard. Freedom Party is both a school and model of what we think a political party should be --- a party of principle.

Freedom Party's record of action is a testament to what can be accomplished by a political party even before it has members elected to provincial parliament. Thanks to Fp's volunteers and supporters, literally hundreds of millions of tax dollars have already been saved, and thousands of Ontarians have already exercised their new choice at the polls.

The following list of events, activities and accomplishments is by no means a complete accounting of Freedom Party's record of action, nor a complete demonstration of Fp's influence in the community. For a more detailed record and documentation of Fp's activities, including those listed here, back-issues of Fp's official newsletter, Freedom Flyer, are available on request.





# FREEDOM PARTY ON THE RECORD

## 1984 - 1994

### 1984

**January:** Freedom Party is founded.

**April:** Freedom Party testifies before the federal government's **Fraser Committee** in support of **freedom of speech**.

**June:** Freedom Party launches a "No-Tax for Pan-Am" campaign with the delivery of 65,000 8-page brochures to London Ontario households outlining the folly of spending \$110 million tax dollars to host the 1991 Pan-Am Games in that city; over 140 letters of support appear in local press; campaign attracts over 1100 London supporters.

**June:** Freedom Party re-affirms its commitment to **freedom of speech** by becoming the only political party in Canada to go on record supporting the **National Citizens' Coalition's** successful court challenge to the federal government's **Bill C-169**. The bill, supported by all three major parties, was drafted to prevent anyone other than an officially-registered political party from buying political advocacy advertising during a federal election campaign.

**September:** Freedom Party supports Eaton's employees fighting a union ratification drive at Eaton's in London, Ontario; Freedom Party drafts and produces brochure which ends up distributed at Eaton's locations across Canada; the pamphlet is cited as the decisive factor preventing union certification in every location it is used. Result: hundreds of employees retain their freedom of association.

### 1985

**January:** Freedom Party campaigns for freedom of choice in education. In an address to the **Shapiro Commission on Private Schools**, Fp leader Robert Metz recommends that taxpayers be permitted to

direct their education tax dollars to the school(s) of their choice.

**April-May:** Freedom Party participates in its first provincial election, fielding three candidates in London Ontario where the party is headquartered. Campaign strategy, geared towards increasing direct membership support (rather than exclusively emphasizing votes), helps build a strong base of support from which to expand.

**June:** Freedom Party's "No-Tax for Pan-Am" campaign ends in victory! We prompt federal sports minister **Otto Jelinek** to cancel federal subsidy of the event, while pressure from our information campaign forces **Liberal leader David Peterson** and **London South MPP Joan Smith** (Liberal) to reverse their support of provincial funding for the event.

**August:** Freedom Party supports the **National Citizens' Coalition's** campaign to help Merv Lavigne challenge **compulsory union dues**.

**October:** Freedom Party launches **education campaign** alerting public to encroaching censorship; over 5,000 copies of "**Censorship Alert!**" are distributed through retail outlets across Ontario.

**November:** Freedom Party leader Robert Metz condemns **rent control** legislation at a major Toronto-area landlord conference.

### 1986

**April:** Freedom Party organizes the largest public petition ever submitted to London's city hall in its history: over 5,000 Londoners sign up to protest a 32% self-awarded pay increase for aldermen and a 42% pay increase for public utilities commissioners.

**August:** Freedom Party launches its second major campaign against the estab-

ishment of tax-funded BIAs, successfully blocking the expansion of a BIA (Business Improvement Area) in East London.

**October:** Our **BIA Warning campaign** expands across Ontario; Politicians start reacting.

**December:** **Freedom Party** launches public campaign favouring freedom of choice in Sunday shopping. Extensive media coverage of **Fp** activity in London, St. Thomas, Toronto, and Mississauga generates national attention.

## **1987**

**February:** **Freedom Party** publicly condemns pay equity legislation before Ontario's Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice.

**February:** "Yes to freedom of choice in Sunday shopping," says **Freedom Party** to Ontario's **Select Committee on Sunday Shopping**.

**March:** **Fp** leader Robert Metz addresses Toronto mayor and councillors, and condemns motives of those opposed to freedom of choice in Sunday Shopping.

**March:** **Freedom Party** helps defeat union ratification at the University of Western Ontario in London.

**April:** **Freedom Party** honours Toronto furrier and Sunday shopping advocate **Paul Magder**, whose personal fight for **freedom of choice in Sunday shopping** took him to the Supreme Court of Canada; 110 supporters attend a \$50+ per plate dinner; extensive media coverage generated.

**May:** **Freedom Party's BIA Warning campaign** draws unprecedented reaction by Hamilton City Council which unanimously passes motion to have Ontario's Attorney-General investigate the feasibility of charging **Freedom Party** with "spreading false news." One municipal councillor argues that **Fp** literature is "changing people's minds on this issue," thus representing a threat to municipal tax increases.

**May:** **Freedom Party** protests garbage strike in London by providing Londoners with limited free garbage pick-up service for the duration of the city's municipal garbage strike; over 70,000 pounds of garbage from over 5,000 London households is hauled away to private landfill sites in the constructive protest spanning 20 days. 5,000 brochures advocating **contracting out** of municipal services are distributed during campaign.

**July:** **Freedom Party** pickets against postal strikers during violent postal strike; **Fp** campaigns for competition in postal services and condemns the violence and coercive tactics employed by postal union.

**August:** On-going **BIA Warning** campaigns expand to over 30 Ontario communities. Ten proposed BIAs are prevented from being established, while three existing BIAs are abolished, an Ontario precedent!

**August-September:** **Freedom Party** participates in its **second provincial election**, expanding candidate representation to St. Thomas, Mississauga, and Toronto areas.

**December:** **Freedom Party** launches education campaign with the publication of the first issue of **Consent**, featuring ideas and opinions by writers and contributors from all over North America.

**December:** Education campaign expands with production of the 1988 **Calendar of Individual Freedom**.

## **1988**

**February:** **Freedom Party** launches public advertising campaigns (including full-page newspaper ads) for **freedom of choice in Sunday shopping**.

**March:** **Freedom Party** participates in its **first Ontario by-election** in the riding of London North.

**April:** **Freedom Party** leader Robert Metz goes head-to-head on the Sunday shopping issue with Ontario **Solicitor-General Joan Smith** and Dresden mayor Les Hawgood.



**August:** Freedom Party supports freedom of choice in Sunday shopping before Ontario's **Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice**.

**November:** Freedom Party participates in its second Ontario by-election in the riding of Welland-Thorold.

**December:** Freedom Party education campaign goes global; **1989 Calendar of Individual Freedom** (Canadian and American versions) ordered from as far away as India, Australia, Europe, and Japan.

**December:** Fp leader Robert Metz challenges Liberal Ontario **Solicitor-General Joan Smith** on Sunday shopping; Smith's response provides an indirect endorsement of Fp: "If people elect a lot of people from the Freedom Party they'll get less regulations..."

## 1989

**April:** At official public hearings, Freedom Party accuses **Workers' Compensation Act** of violating workers' rights.

**May:** Freedom Party moves to protect the environment. After exposing the City of Welland's practice of dumping raw sewage into the Welland River, Fp's Barry Fitzgerald gets the provincial ministry to order sewer hookups, but the city refuses. Fitzgerald publicly vows he'll "make sure" the sewage is cleaned up.

**September:** Freedom Party's **BIA Warning** campaign is attacked by **Mississauga mayor Hazel McCallion** who lashes out against tax protesters by accusing Freedom Party of stirring up their discontent: "It's the Freedom Party that's in action! That's what we're up against..."

**November:** Freedom Party expands education campaign to public forums; fundamental issues of **democracy, freedom, majority rule, and individual rights** are debated across the province.

## 1990

**January:** Freedom Party takes a public stand against Ontario's Bill 8 and official bilingualism.

**March:** Freedom Party helps save the environment! City of Welland finally forced to start treatment of the raw sewage being dumped into the Welland River. Fitzgerald's promise kept.

**July:** Freedom Party campaigns for lower taxes and reduced government spending in its third provincial election.

**November:** Freedom Party launches major media campaign linking socialist government policies to a rise in racism; debate is sparked in newspaper editorial pages.

**December:** Freedom Party helps organize local chapters of the newly formed **Ontario Taxpayers' Coalition** in an effort to help stop property tax increases in Ontario.

## 1991

**February:** Freedom Party launches its own anti-tax campaign along with its own accompanying newsletter, the **Tax-Ax**.

**March:** Freedom Party campaigns for freedom of choice in education; Fp leader Robert Metz challenges London's Board of Education trustees to defy Rae government edicts which needlessly force education expenditures to rise.

**April:** Freedom Party's William Frampton submits brief to the Special Joint Committee on the Process for Amending the Constitution of Canada.

**April:** Freedom Party condemns provincial NDP's **rent control** options; Fp leader Robert Metz accuses NDP of placing political interests above housing affordability for Ontarians.

**May:** Freedom Party participates in a private daycare forum sponsored by United Voices for Fair Treatment in **Child Care**; Fp leader Robert Metz warns that the NDP

intends to eliminate all private daycare options in Ontario.

**July:** Fp leader Robert Metz challenges NDP premier Bob Rae on BIA legislation, citing the fact that BIAs are not democratic; Rae nevertheless supports the legislation, suggesting that if a particular business does not wish to be conscripted into a BIA, it can move out of the area.

**August:** Freedom Party targets teachers' union with door-to-door public information campaign, generating front-page media coverage.

**August:** During his address to the Standing Committee on the General Government, Fp leader Robert Metz accuses NDP of 'Bad Intentions' with its introduction of Bill 121, the legislation intended to tighten existing rent controls.

**August:** Fp leader Robert Metz addresses the Standing Committee on Administration of Justice, challenging Bill 115, intended to entrench Ontario's Sunday shopping laws; all three major parties reinforce their opposition to freedom of choice in Sunday shopping.

**October:** Fourteen Fp members and supporters set the political agenda in the London and St. Thomas 1991 municipal elections for school board trustees.

**October:** Fp provincial secretary Robert Vaughan organizes special London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition trustee election event, exposing the issue of "whole language" as a primary cause behind growing illiteracy rates within the public education system; over 200 attend meeting, four times larger than any other election event.

**October:** Hamilton's Jamesville BIA is finally defeated, after four years of persistent efforts by Freedom Party and Fp supporter Ron Burrige.

**November:** Fp-supported municipal candidates make a strong showing at the polls, despite massive union-sponsored and media-supported campaign against them.

**December:** Shocked by the presence of an

organized and effective opposition to incumbent trustees, Fp-endorsed candidates are brought under attack by London Board of Education trustees and administrators.

**December:** Fp executive Barry Fitzgerald challenges mandatory cycle helmet law, introduced as a private member's bill by London North MPP Dianne Cunningham, before the Standing Committee on the Resources Development.

## 1992

**January:** Freedom Party member and author William Trench publishes *Only You Can Save Canada - Restoring Freedom and Prosperity*. Endorsed by NCC president David Somerville and columnist Peter Worthington, the book includes a Foreword by Fp leader Robert Metz.

**March:** Freedom Party launches 'Just Say Know To Whole Language' campaign in London; campaign expands to Ottawa, Toronto, Sarnia, and Oxford county.

**March:** Fp executive members Robert Metz and Robert Vaughan address the London Board of Education, citing the tremendous hidden costs of "whole language" buried in its 1992 budget. Board reacts in outrage.

**April:** At a public forum attended by over 1000 people, Fp leader Robert Metz addresses the Ministry of Community and Social Services panel on child care reform; Metz condemns government's attempt to introduce universality, a day care monopoly, and the elimination of the profit motive.

**April:** Fp executive members Robert Metz and Robert Vaughan address the Ontario Human Rights Code Review Task Force, condemning the concept of "systemic discrimination" and the establishment of special police forces to enforce such legislation.

**April:** Fp "whole language" campaign draws irate public response from London school principal who distributes her lengthy written rebuttal to local residents via the school's students -- much to the anger and surprise of the children's parents. Fp reprints her



criticism, using it as an illustration of the failings of whole language, and of the contradictory arguments used to defend it.

**May:** Freedom Party assists London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition in exposing the City of London's **Project 2000**, an official municipal policy discouraging the pursuit of known **welfare fraud** cases.

**May:** Freedom Party joins forces with a coalition of Ontario's "alternative" parties to demand equal and fair treatment under the law for all officially-registered political parties.

**June:** At a \$50-per-plate dinner event, Fp member and author **William Trench** warns Fp members and supporters that "this country is in a far worse condition --- and I'm not kidding you --- than anybody in this room even suspects, and that includes me."

**June:** The staff of a public school in London accuses Fp of publishing "hate literature" because of its campaign against "whole language". To evade Fp scrutiny of the controversial teaching method and philosophy, one local school principal withdraws his public invitation to Fp to observe classes in his school.

**June:** At public hearings, Fp leader Robert Metz demands an end to the London Board of Education's intimidation tactics directed against those who oppose "whole language".

**July:** In a written submission to the **Ontario Law Reform Commission's** review of the Ontario Film Review Board (censor board), Fp says **'No' to censorship**. Surprisingly, in its 134-page report, the Reform Commission agrees.

**July:** Fp leader Robert Metz addresses a crowd of over 1,000 on the grounds of Toronto's City Hall citing the failures of Cannabis Prohibition and Canada's counter-productive and expensive War on Drugs.

**September:** Fp launches campaign to support the **'NO'** side of the **Charlottetown accord** referendum question. In public forums and on televised debates, Fp leader Robert Metz argues that the "referendum is fraudulently being sold to Canadians as a

unity package, when in fact it has nothing to do with unity."

**November:** Despite a CRTC ruling that alternative parties are not given equal air time during elections, Mr. Justice Borins dismissed an application by Ontario's alternate parties to prosecute the three major parties for violating the law. He went one step further by accusing the alternate parties of advancing their own political agendas.

## 1993

**January:** In separate meetings with Progressive Conservative leader **Mike Harris**, and with officials of the NDP government, Fp leader Robert Metz joins **education delegation** at Queen's Park to protest the teaching policies of the Ministry of Education.

**February:** Fp leader Robert Metz volunteers to represent London Landlord **Elijah Elieff** before an Ontario **Human Rights Commission Board of Inquiry**. As part of his defence that the landlord was falsely accused of racial discrimination against his tenants, Metz argues that the Human Rights Commission itself promotes an openly racist agenda.

**April:** Fp participates in its **third Ontario Bi-election** in the Toronto riding of Don Mills. Candidate David Pengelly reaches thousands of voters with **Freedom Party** message, while voters oust NDP.

**April:** Fp joins with alternate Ontario political parties in a demonstration protesting federal **Bill C-114** at Queen's Park. The Bill, supported by federal Liberals, Conservatives, and New Democrats, essentially prohibits lobby groups and private individuals from purchasing advertising to espouse their views during a federal election.

**April:** Fp calls for an end to universality in social programs, the privatization and selling-off of crown corporations, and flat taxes in its public address to the **Ontario Fair Tax Commission**.

**May:** Fp leader Robert Metz participates in televised debate on **cannabis prohibition**.



Joined and supported by former public school teacher **Jeff Schurie** (who as a consequence of his conviction of cultivating cannabis in his home founded **HEMP Canada**), Metz debated **London Police Force superintendent Jim Balmain**. Though invited to participate, representatives of the **Addiction Research Foundation** refused to send a participant to help Balmain with his case.

**August:** Fp leader Robert Metz repeats his message on the failure of **cannabis prohibition** at the second rally held at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (**NORML**): "Drug traffickers," warns Metz, "are among the (biggest) supporters of drug prohibition."

**September:** During on-going testimony before **Ontario's Human Rights Commission Board of Inquiry**, a retroactive **publication ban is placed on Fp's June 1993 issue of Freedom Flyer**. The party newsletter reported a deal the Commission tried to strike with London landlord **Elijah Elieff** in exchange for dropping the complaint against him.

**September:** Fp leader Robert Metz presents his **closing arguments** to the HRC Board of Inquiry. Arguing that London landlord **Elijah Elieff** was an unsuspecting victim of a "calculated, fully orchestrated lobby effort" to gain control of his apartment buildings, Metz cites past Board of Inquiry decisions as evidence of the **Human Rights Commission's** own prejudice towards the minorities it purports to protect. The Board promises a decision within three months.

**October:** Fp addresses Ontario's **Royal Commission on Learning**, challenging the \$3 million public hearing to live up to its stated objective of giving Ontarians "a say" in the province's education system. Arguing that Ontarians cannot really have "a say" until they have a choice, Fp leader Robert Metz cites the government's commitment to preserving its monopoly and control over education as evidence that the hearings are a useless and wasteful exercise.

**November:** Fp assists **London taxi reform** coalition with its campaign to expose discriminating licensing practices and to introduce more competition in the industry. **Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ed Philip**, refuses to order a formal inquiry into the London taxi industry.

## 1994

**January:** Fp executive **Robert Metz steps down as founding party leader**, clearing the way for **Jack Plant** to take the helm as **interim leader**. Metz continues as party president, policy spokesman, and newsletter editor.

**May:** In a public address to **A.P.E.C.** supporters, Fp president Robert Metz lets them know that Freedom Party supports their position against **official bilingualism** and on constitutional change.

**May:** Fp leader Jack Plant and secretary Robert Vaughan attend **Queen's Park** for the tabling of the **NDP's 1994 Ontario budget**. Plant expresses his concerns to **PC leader Mike Harris** and to members of business community and media.

**May:** In a public address to trustees, Fp leader Jack Plant warns London's Public School Board of the eventual and unavoidable "end of public education as we have come to understand it." Citing a provincial deficit that is increasing Ontario's debt at a rate of over \$1 million per hour, Plant emphasizes that school boards across the province can soon expect drastic reductions in provincial **education transfer payments**.

**August:** Ontario Human Rights Commission **Board of Inquiry clears London landlord Elijah Elieff** of racism complaint, in a long-awaited decision on the arguments put forth by Fp president Robert Metz.

**September:** Fp manager of special projects, Murray Hopper, draws the attention of Financial Post editor **Diane Francis**, with his suggestion of applying the "**Dutch clock auction**" principle to Canada's welfare system. While saving taxpayers money, it would

also provide a positive incentive for welfare recipients to abandon dependency and seek employment without being penalized by the system.

**October:** Fp president Robert Metz finds himself embroiled in a debate with gay activists opposed to **parental input** on "alternate lifestyle" workshops in the public school system. The debate is aired across Ontario on the BBS television network in the midst of municipal election campaign periods.

**October:** Fp president Robert Metz attends London **Symposium 1994** expecting to debate a representative from MPP Marion Boyd's office on the subject of censorship before a group of Ontario students attending the conference from around the province. At last minute, Boyd's office withdraws its representative saying that they "could not commit the time."

**October:** In a radio debate with representatives of **Much Music** and anti-violence groups, Fp president Robert Metz blames C.R.T.C. regulations for being behind Much

Music's decision to slot rock band SFH's music video, *Mourning Suicide*, into its "Too Much For Much" program segment. Citing the issue of C.R.T.C. regulations as being "very sensitive" to Canadian broadcasters, Much Music's manager of communications, Sarah Crawford, refuses to publicly speculate on the possibility of a different decision in the absence of the regulator.

**November:** Fp secretary Robert Vaughan becomes Fp's first executive member **elect**ed to public office as a public school board trustee in London.

**December:** Gordon Domm, the retired OPP officer convicted of distributing published information on the Karla Teale murder trial, speaks to Fp supporters at a \$50/plate dinner held in his honour in London. The event, calling for the public's right to access information pertaining to **fundamental issues of justice** and public jurisdiction, drew media attention and support for Domm's on-going fight over the **publication ban** and his pending appeal of the conviction.

#### ON THE RECORD!

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#### FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

**Freedom Party of Ontario** is a fully-registered Ontario political party. Contributions are tax-creditable.

**Statement of Principle:** **Freedom Party** is founded on the principle that: *Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property.* Platform: that the *purpose of government* is to *protect* individual freedom of choice, *not* to restrict it.

**Annual Membership & Support Level:** \$25 minimum (tax-creditable); **Provincial Executive:**

*Ontario President:* Robert Metz; *Vice-president, Ontario:* Lloyd Walker; *Ontario Secretary:* Robert Vaughan; *Regional Vice-president, Eastern Ontario:* William Frampton; *Chief Financial Officer:* Patti Plant; *Executive Officer:* Barry Malcolm; *Party Leader:* Jack Plant.

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