

# The Intelligencer

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## This party deals with freedom

By Derek Baldwin The Intelligencer  
Saturday, September 21, 2002 - 09:00

### Local News -

A new provincial political party is about to sink local roots. Today, the first tangible efforts to launch the Freedom Party will surface in Prince Edward-Hastings County with a full day constituency workshop at the Ramada Inn in Belleville.

Robert Metz, a Freedom Party founder and Ontario president will be joined by Paul McKeever, Ontario party leader, in addresses to those registered for the conference. The Freedom Party was formed Jan. 1, 1984 but has yet to gain political ground in the last 20 years.

In a statement, Metz acknowledged the battle for publicity and said he was quoted two decades ago that "it would be at least 20 years before enough people even heard of the name Freedom Party to make a party a viable option in Ontario's political marketplace."

Metz said the emphasis of the party during that time was not "exclusively political; it necessarily included advocacy, education, and lobbying."

But he said now is the time for the party to come out. "There is a pending provincial election on the horizon and the time has arrived to focus on the Freedom Party of Ontario's efforts on getting candidates elected...." he said.

The workshop, he said, is "a must for everyone wanting to get involved on an organization or candidate level in the next provincial election."

Local Hastings-Prince Edward Freedom Party president Trueman Tuck is organizing the event. Following the 9 a.m. opening and a 10:15 a.m. address by Metz, party leader McKeever will give a speech at 11:15 a.m..

Tuck will discuss the organization of a constituency association at 1 p.m. The day is expected to conclude at 3 p.m.

News of Freedom Party's Belleville workshop found its way to the front page of the Belleville Intelligencer on Saturday September 21 and on page 2 of that paper's Sunday September 22 edition, accompanied by a photo of Fp leader Paul McKeever. A report of the workshop also appeared in the Kingston Whig Standard on September 21. Follow-up interviews with Belleville Radio Station CJBQ occurred on Tuesday September 24. At left and below is the text from the Belleville Intelligencer as it was posted on that paper's website.



Thank you  
for helping make  
Fp's Belleville  
workshop  
a success!



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## Freedom Party wooing disenchanted with main parties

By Jennifer Bell The Intelligencer  
Sunday, September 22, 2002 - 09:00

### Local News -

Paul McKeever wants people to know that Ontario's Freedom Party isn't "just the latest flavour of the month. Although many people may not have heard of us, we've been around since 1984, quietly building and organizing the structure of the party, and now we're ready to focus on getting our candidates elected."

As leader, McKeever — who spoke at the party's first constituency association workshop in Belleville Saturday — said the Freedom Party appeals to people looking for an "option" from the mainstream Tory and Liberal platforms during the next provincial election.

McKeever was joined by party president Robert Metz, its education critic Robert Vaughan and Trueman Tuck, president of the party's Prince Edward-Hastings constituency association. Each official addressed the approximately 25 members during the workshop, held at the Ramada Inn.

Choices in health care and education for Ontarians — which include turning over education tax dollars directly to the school of people's choice, and opening up government health care insurance to competition from outside agencies — are high-priority issues on the party's platform, said McKeever.

"Rationing, crisis, taxation, service cuts and punishment are not the hallmarks of freedom and democracy but of oppression and mob rule," he told members. "Our government's health care system is not one to be found in a society of personal choice, but one most suited for a dictatorship."

The party was founded on the "best of both liberal and conservative values," said McKeever: individual freedom of choice, and personal responsibility. We believe that, balanced together, these values are the blueprint for a better Ontario.

Metz, one of the party's founding members, said he was quoted in 1986 as saying "it would be at least 20 years before people even heard of the name Freedom Party to make it a viable option in Ontario's political marketplace."

"With a pending provincial election on the horizon, the time has arrived to focus on getting candidates elected." (In recent weeks, there has been growing speculation that Premier Ernie Eves is planning an early vote, possibly this spring. There have also been reports of Eves being advised to call one this fall.)

Born and raised in Oshawa, McKeever, a civil litigation attorney, said the Prince Edward-Hastings riding association "continues to receive an influx of members who are realizing that they do have an option to the current political parties. We are gaining ground day by day."