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Freedom Party

...Today's Choice For Tomorrow!

January, 1999

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope and trust that you and yours have had a safe and happy holiday season. It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed, and at our doorstep is a new year which will likely be a very significant one for politics in Ontario.

With the next Ontario election expected in 1999, time is precious. We must now turn to you for your support and involvement in helping us to prepare our next election campaign. The first step in this process is enclosed: your copy of the "Member's Draft" of the Official Platform of the Freedom Party of Ontario. We need your input and participation to help us refine, clarify, and prioritize Freedom Party's platform and policy statements.

The current draft platform has about 75 issue subject headings. When complete, a larger, more detailed platform will evolve to present a comprehensive policy picture of **Freedom Party** to the public and media. During an election, however, we must choose to emphasize only a handful of these issues. Which issues to choose is one of the questions on our survey.

Because we need a broad range of opinion and perspective, this survey and platform package is being mailed to all **Fp** members, supporters, associates, friends, and inquiries on our current mailing list. We need the input, advice, comments, and suggestions from as many people as possible (even those who may disagree with us) to help us shape and refine our official platform statement before releasing it to the media and posting it to our web site. Our deadline? By the time Mike Harris calls the election, our platform must be ready for publication and distribution.

I must emphasize that this platform is still in draft form and incomplete. There are some inadequately worded sections, and a few sections missing. For example, some of the issues/topics that we already know will be added on our next draft include: Family Law, Charity, Capitalism, the Monarchy, Process for Amending the Constitution, and others. Other existing subject areas still require more clarity. (Even though some issues may be federal, we believe that a comprehensive provincial platform requires a stated perspective on federal matters, since federal policies impact greatly upon provincial policies and resources.)

So with these thoughts in mind, I hope that you'll take the time to consider our enclosed platform draft and to offer your input and suggestions. Simply fill out and complete the enclosed 'Member's Draft Survey' in the post-paid envelope provided.

(over.../2)

Please note that this is not a 'marketing' or statistic gathering survey; it is an informal appeal for your advice and input. We aren't interested in just counting numbers or gathering information about the likes/dislikes of our members and supporters. We are seriously interested in improving our platform, and the more people who offer us their input and support, the better we believe that platform will be --- even if we do not use or act upon every suggestion offered.

Rest assured however, that every suggestion you offer will be read, and then will be considered and weighed against the principles on which **Freedom Party** was founded. Even if we do not act on someone's particular suggestion(s), any significant disagreement(s) will be discussed in the pages of *Freedom Flyer* to clarify our position.

Also, please do not feel limited by the specific questions we've asked on the survey; if there's another area of concern or discussion that you think we've missed, let us know. Write in the margins, the blank space, or even attach your own letter if necessary.

Finally, it goes without saying that there is another type of input and support we always require and which we also always appreciate: your financial support. Everything we do depends on it. Please take this opportunity to make your first 1999 contribution to Freedom Party. Remember, up to 75% of your contribution can be directly refunded to you on your 1999 tax return. Check out the box on the enclosed blue contribution form for examples of how these political tax credits work for residents of Ontario.

I hope to hear from you soon. Together, we can create a political platform against which the other parties will surely be measured.

Sincerely,
FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO



Robert Metz
Ontario President

P.S. Remember, all contributions are tax-creditable to residents of Ontario! A post-paid envelope and response form are enclosed for your convenience.



Member's Draft Survey - Official Platform Freedom Party of Ontario

(Please circle appropriate capitalized responses, and add any comments or specifics in the margins or spaces provided. For longer comments or suggestions, use the space provided on the back of this sheet.)

(1) Do you fundamentally agree with Fp's Statement of Principle?

YES SOMEWHAT NOT SURE NO

(2) Do you find that Fp's policy statements are consistent with its Statement of Principle as it appears on page 3 of the Members's Draft Platform?

YES NO If 'no', on which issue(s) do feel that Fp's policy statements are inconsistent?

(3) Are there any ambiguous or unclear policies?

YES NO If 'yes', which issues do you feel that our policy statement(s) need to be more clearly expressed? Any suggestions?

(4) How many of Freedom Party's policies would you say that you AGREE with?

NONE SOME HALF MOST ALL

(5) Is (Are) there any specific issue(s) with which you...

STRONGLY DISAGREE? STRONGLY SUPPORT?

_____ Issue(s)? _____

(6) Which issue(s) (up to 5) do you think should be selected or emphasized during the next provincial election? Which are least important?

PRIORITIES: _____

LEAST IMPORTANT _____

(7) What topics and/or issues are missing, and should be ADDED to Fp's comprehensive platform?

OTHER TOPICS/ISSUES: _____

(*) General / Expanded Comments: (Use extra sheet, if necessary.)

NAME: _____
(If any of your address or contact information has changed since our last contacting you, please use the blue contribution form enclosed to let us know.)

(1) Do you consider yourself to be a Freedom Party:

MEMBER? SUPPORTER? FRIEND? SUBSCRIBER? OTHER?

(2) If 'member' or 'supporter' (\$25 annual minimum) would you like to receive a 'membership card' indicating your status?

YES DOESN'T MATTER NO

(3) Would you or someone you know be interested in becoming a Freedom Party candidate or organizer for your riding?

YES MAYBE NO

If 'yes' or 'maybe', please provide details:

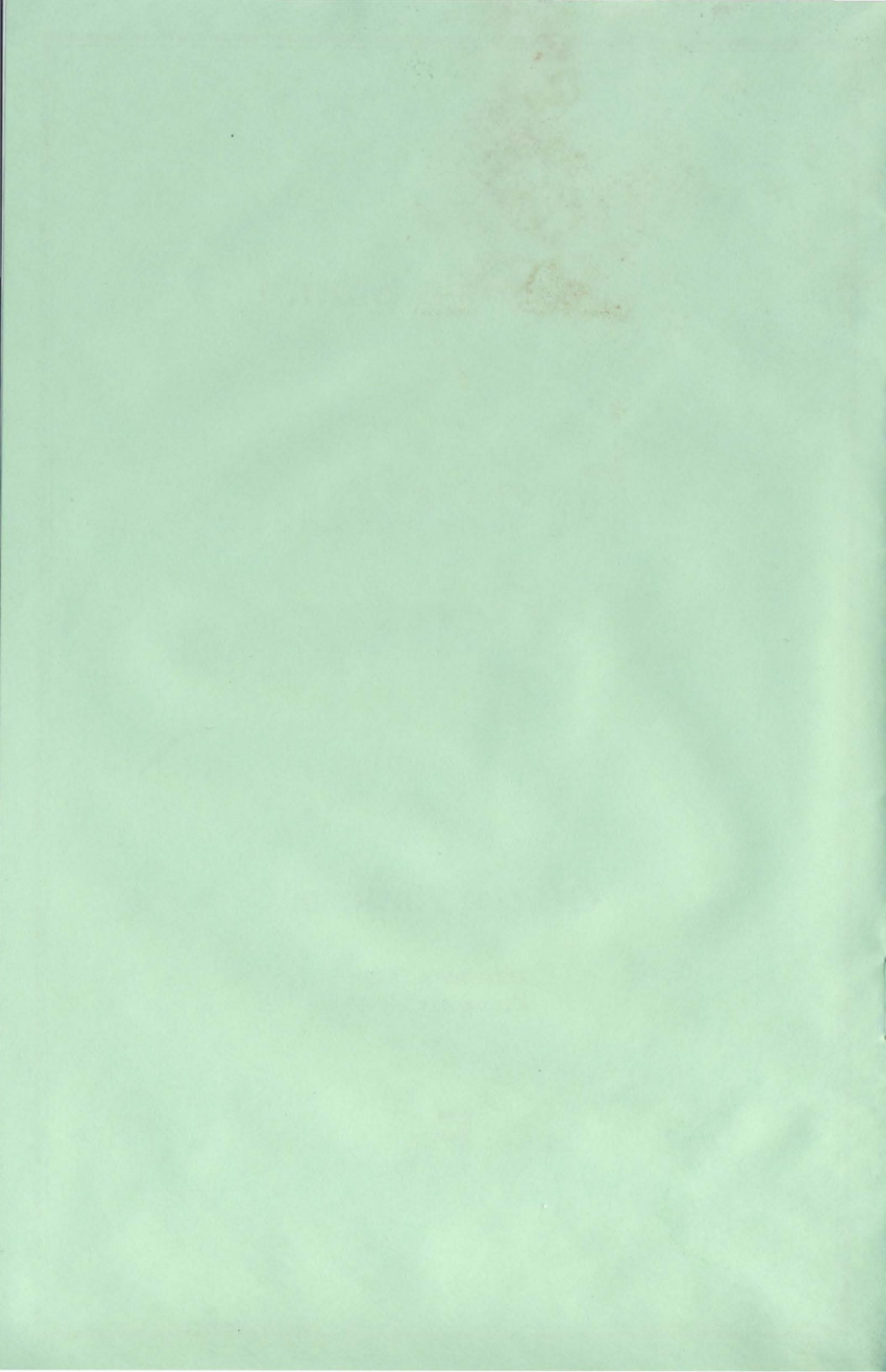
Where We Stand!

Freedom Party

Official Platform

*Member's Draft
December, 1998*





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.**

Where We Stand!

Official Platform

Freedom Party of Ontario

Member's Draft - December, 1998

Introduction:

Freedom Party believes in the dignity of the individual and believes that individuals, not groups, are the basic unit of any society (the smallest minority), and therefore the only entity capable of possessing or exercising rights.

Because we are all individuals within a society of many individuals, individual freedom is essential to our survival and well-being. The most important battles for freedom were fought and won with ideas. Over history, gross violations of individual freedom have become less and less acceptable due to the growth of understanding of the principles and benefits of individual freedom.

However, because of the collectivist philosophies of the major Canadian political parties (both federal and provincial), freedom has come under severe attack in Canada. Freedom Party was founded to present a defense against these attacks, on both moral and intellectual grounds, by forcing a discussion of freedom's fundamental principles into the global political marketplace, and by offering the electorate in the province of Ontario an alternative to statist philosophy and government.

The following document is a comprehensive 'member's draft' of the official platform of the Freedom Party of Ontario. It is the culmination of many years of experience and includes the input of our executive members, party supporters, and the many individuals who over the years have offered us their expertise and counsel.

This platform is an expression of Freedom Party's philosophy in terms of specific policies and actions that Fp would pursue, whether elected or not. This document is not intended to address the deeper explanations, philosophies, or emotional considerations underlying our specific policies. For these insights, the reader is invited to read any of our 'issue papers' or either of Fp's two regular newsletters: Freedom Flyer and Consent.

With the exception of Freedom Party's Statement of Principle, this document will always be evolving. As a result, we are always looking for the input of our members, supporters, and the general public. Whether positive or negative, your input is invited and is always appreciated and valued.

Policy and Platform

Freedom:

Freedom is having the right to live in a social and political environment where the initiation of physical force is prohibited by law. Recognizing that individual freedom and individual responsibility are inseparable, **Freedom Party (Fp)** is founded on the premise that the primary function of government is to protect the individual rights and freedoms of its citizens. We believe that individual freedom is the highest possible objective to be achieved by any political action. Freedom requires the eternal vigilance of a well-informed citizenry, free elections, free markets, and freedom of speech.

We will:

- * Consistently put freedom first, by using individual freedom and responsibility as the standard against which all legislation is to be measured and judged;**
 - * Work to enact legislation that would guarantee individual freedom as a FUNDAMENTAL freedom, subject to NO overriding clauses or political priorities;**
 - * Work to reduce and eliminate government restrictions on private and economic choice, through the protection of free markets and freedom of speech;**
 - * Work to reduce the power of government in all areas except the administration of justice.**
-

Official Platform

Freedom Party of Ontario

Member's Draft - December, 1998

Aboriginal Issues:

Fp believes that aboriginal peoples can best protect their culture through the privatization (individual, not collective) of native reserves. The proper principle on which to base any land claim settlements, rights, and forms of government, is the principle of individual rights under which ALL individuals are guaranteed their fundamental rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, and the necessary PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS to enable the exercise of such freedoms through the establishment of contracts and valid agreements. Property rights, in turn, establish OWNERSHIP, and define the RESPONSIBILITY for such ownership.

We will:

- * **ELIMINATE ALL DEFINITIONS OF RACE, COLOUR, CREED, etc. in any legislation establishing rights, governments, or other official institutions;**

- * **Treat ALL Canadians, aboriginals included, as EQUAL BEFORE AND UNDER THE LAW;**

- * **End forced subsidization of racial or ethnic lobby groups;**

- * **Insist that land claim settlements allow individual aboriginals the full right to privately own their own land, including the right to buy, sell, rent, or mortgage that land to, from, or with anyone of any racial background.**

Abortion:

The decision faced by a woman considering the abortion option is fundamentally distinct from the decisions made by governments that legislate on abortion; whereas the woman's choice is a moral and personal one, the government's choices are always political.

True freedom of choice in abortion, as in all aspects of choice, entails the personal acceptance and legal enforcement of responsibility for one's choices. For that reason, we don't believe that it's the government's job to make getting an abortion easy any more than we believe it's the government's job to prohibit abortions.

Fp does not support the prohibition of abortion, and believes that the choice and responsibility of having or not having an abortion belongs only to the woman affected. However, Fp would halt the funding of abortions through taxpayer dollars, and refrain from activities and policies that encourage the use of abortion as (free) birth control.

We will:

- * **Stop taxpayer funding for abortion;**

- * **Ensure that abortion would be the financial and personal responsibility of those making the choice.**

Academic Freedom:

"Academic freedom and tenure exist... in order that society will have the benefit of honest judgement and independent criticism which might (otherwise) be withheld because of fear of offending a dominant social group or transient social attitude."

Most people today are not aware of the measures taken in recent years at most universities, which could significantly undermine this most essential principle. Fp fully supports the right to freedom in academic research, regardless of how 'unpopular' such research might be. Government has no right to determine the legitimacy of academic research.

We would:

- * **Privatize education in Ontario, and allow taxpayers to direct their education tax dollars to the education institution(s) of their choice;**
- * **Abolish state infringements of free speech and government limits placed upon educators.**

Affirmative Action:

Fp believes that affirmative action programs legislated on private hiring practices are wrong in principle, and represent forced discrimination. As an employer, the government may institute whatever hiring policies it deems appropriate; however, such standards must not forcibly override private contracts, nor be imposed upon the private marketplace.

We would:

- * **Remove all legislation that legally imposes affirmative action employment equity, pay equity and/or any quota programs based on race, colour, creed, sex, etc.**
- * **Support the principle of private, voluntary contract as the basis of legitimate employment practices.**

Auto Insurance:

Government should not be in the insurance business, nor regulating insurance rates/benefits contrary to market forces. Fp supports a private, competitive insurance market free from government intervention.

We would:

- * **Get the government out of the business of providing and regulating automobile insurance;**
- * **Privatize any existing government enterprise that provides insurance.**

Balanced Budgets:

Long-term debt at the expense of future taxpayers constitutes taxation without repre-

sentation, a principle contrary to that of a free society. Debt also burdens future generations for the government programs of today. Fp would require that the Ontario government balance its budget every 3 years or call an election on that issue alone.

We would:

- * **Pass a Taxpayer Protection Act which would contain the requirement that the government balance its budget every 3 years or be dissolved, requiring an election;**
- * **Reduce the power of government so as to also reduce its spending requirements.**

(See 'Taxes'.)

Business:

Fp fully supports free enterprise and the fundamental principles on which it rests. Fp does NOT support business subsidies paid for by taxpayers, which constitute an unjust transfer of wealth.

Economic activity that is controlled, subsidized, or regulated by governments will always result in artificial economies, economies that simply don't stand a chance competing against those that permit the power of the market to operate freely.

Individuals should be free to enter the occupations of their choice, trade with other individuals

of their choice, and buy the products of their choice, free from the intervention of governments.

We would:

- * **Make certain that government acts as a marketplace 'referee' and not a player in the game;**
- * **Protect private property rights;**
- * **End government subsidies to business;**
- * **Maintain a free competitive marketplace in both business and labour.**

Calgary Framework:

With the failure of the Charlottetown Accord fresh in their memories, Canadian politicians devised a different process to be able to claim that Canadians supported another constitutional framework that gives special status and rights to certain groups within the country. It should not be surprising that such a document does not even mention individual freedom as one of its fundamental values. Operating on a political 'negative billing' principle, the Ontario legislature approved the Calgary Framework, assuming that Ontarian's silence on the issue implied consent.

We would:

- * Hold a referendum on all fundamental issues of constitutional change.

Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC):

Fp supports the abolishment of the Canadian Radio & Telecommunications Commission. As an instrument of censorship and of forced cultural and nationalistic broadcast policies, the CRTC has no place in a free society.

We would:

- * Lobby the Federal government to abolish the CRTC;
- * Refuse to commit provincial resources towards the enforcement of CRTC policy;
- * Vigorously oppose any extension of CRTC powers into "new media" such as the internet.

Censorship:

Fp fully supports freedom of speech, and opposes censorship laws on principle. Freedom of speech is a FUNDAMENTAL right. Fp would abolish the Ontario Film Review Board (Ontario's censor board) and consistently support laws that protect freedom of expression from government regulation.

We would:

- * Abolish the Ontario Film Review Board;

* Abolish the Ontario Human Rights Commission;

- * Repeal any provincial legislation that restricts freedom of speech.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

With the passing of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982, Canada changed from a country with an unwritten Constitution, where Parliament was government by customs and conventions, to a country with a codified Charter. Parliament ceased to be responsible to the people and became responsible to a Charter.

It is important to remember that Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms was not open to consultation with the public, and that it was passed without a mandate or the people's consent by a Prime Minister who threatened to act unilaterally if the provinces did not agree with his proposal.

There is not one freedom nor is there one right set out in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that did not exist in Common Law before the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was enacted. Before the Charter, power was in the people, springing from the grassroots with limited power being given to those who were placed in positions of authority; after the Charter, control is from the top down, with limited freedom being granted to citizens by those in authority.

We would:

- * Lobby and work towards a repeal the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- * Work towards legislation that protects fundamental freedoms and entrenches private property rights.

Children & Child Care:

Governments at all levels seem to have considered advice about child care from everyone OTHER than mothers and children. Throughout the whole debate on child care, the needs of children are rarely factored in, or when they are, they are not deemed of enough importance to warrant any special

consideration. Child care is always discussed within the political realms of 'women', 'feminism', 'equality' and 'economics'.

Fp holds the view that children and child care are primarily parental responsibilities, and that government should only get involved when these responsibilities have been neglected or avoided by the parents.

We would:

- * **Get the government out of the child care business;**

- * **Direct any government welfare assistance directly to the individuals in demonstrable need;**

- * **Eliminate funding to all child care advocacy groups, who thus are given tremendous power to continue the trend toward the institutionalized care of Canadian children;**

- * **End any and all universal 'family allowance' payments;**

- * **Make tax laws more equitable for ALL families, including families where one spouse chooses to stay at home rather than seek employment in the marketplace;**

- * **Direct the conversion of ALL government day care centers to private or non-profit centers so that taxpayers are not forced to subsidize someone else's choice of child care. Let the supply and demand marketplace work itself out within the non-profit and private day care sector.**

Constitution:

Fp believes that the purpose of a constitution, in a free society, is to protect the fundamental freedoms of its citizens by placing limits on the power of government. Whether written or unwritten, a free constitution must include the entrenchment of private property rights.

We would:

- * **Work to have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms abolished (See 'Charter of Rights and Freedoms').;**

- * **Seek constitutional reform to return to the principles of English common law;**

- * **Seek constitutional reform to restrict the power of government and to place the citizen in charge of their government by empowering them with a representative electoral system that makes each and every vote count. (See 'Electoral Reform').**

Crown Corporations:

Freedom Party advocates the privatization of government owned businesses including Ontario Hydro, the LCBO, and Workers' Compensation. We also encourage private sector replacement of services currently provided by government (e.g., day care and public transportation).

We would:

- * **Privatize and sell off crown corporations to the private sector;**

- * **Keep the marketplace free to allow for open competition in the delivery of services.**

Culture:

(See 'Multiculturalism').

Democracy:

Fp upholds and respects the right of individual citizens to elect a representative government under free and open elections. However, Fp believes that the principle of majority vote must be held secondary to the principles protecting and guaranteeing our fundamental freedoms.

We would:

- * **Ensure that fundamental freedoms (both personal and economic) are protected from being restricted by the majority vote process;**

- * **Implement electoral reform at the provincial level and lobby for similar reform at the federal level.**

(See 'Electoral Reform').

Discrimination:

Fp believes that only governments should be constitutionally prohibited from discriminating (for or against) on the basis of physical or economic characteristics of individuals before the law. Fp will not support any law which would place one citizen's rights above that of any other.

We would:

- * Ensure that all legislation views all individuals as equal before and under the law;
- * Repeal any 'affirmative action' legislation (See 'Affirmative Action'.);
- * Protect the right to freedom of association and to voluntary private contract.

Drug Laws:

Although primarily a federal matter, Fp opposes treating recreational drug use as a criminal offence, and to the spending of billions of tax dollars on a counter-productive effort to decrease drug use. Prohibition laws not only fuel the drug trade, but violate individual rights as well.

We would:

- * Reduce provincial spending and policing on the enforcement of drug prohibition;
- * Lobby the Federal government to end drug prohibition, and to treat drug addiction as a medical matter rather than criminal;
- * Treat as criminals only those people who have committed a legitimately criminal act.

Education:

Fp supports the right of taxpayers to direct their education taxes to the school(s) of their choice, including private options. Within the public system, we propose clear education standards and objective student evaluations, with an emphasis on basics, including: direct instruction, the systematic use of phonics to teach reading, standardized testing, and

effective standards of discipline.

We would:

- * Allow taxpayers to direct their education taxes and send their children (or themselves) to the school of their choice, public or private;
- * Separate the state from the direct provision of education.

Electoral Reform:

Under Ontario's (and Canada's) 'first-past-the-post' electoral system, anyone who does not vote for a winning candidate effectively loses his or her vote and remains unrepresented. Political parties as a result have far too much power and influence on the outcome of elections, even before an election is called. To empower the individual and to make the role of political parties secondary, Fp supports proportional representation (PR), with the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) as our preferred option. Fp believes that political parties should pay for their own election expenses and not be subsidized by taxpayers, as is the case now for those parties who exceed 15% of the popular vote in a given riding.

We would:

- * Change to the STV for a voting process;
- * Eliminate government subsidies to political parties;
- * Establish fixed terms of office and fixed election dates;
- * Allow only individuals to contribute to political parties for tax-creditable purposes (not corporations or unions);
- * Abolish the Elections Finances Commission.

Environment:

It goes without saying that the environment is important to everyone. Whether you speak to representatives of government, business, labour, or just to the average Canadian citizen, you'll probably have a pretty tough time trying to find someone who's advocating an unclean, polluted environment. So why is

"the environment" an issue?

Unfortunately, like everything else in politics, the "issue" is not really about the specific subject being discussed (i.e., the "environment"), but rather about the political philosophy that should be applied to government policies regarding that subject. On one side of the issue is the "Private Property/Capitalist/Free Market" approach to the environment, while on the other side of the issue is the "State Property / Socialist / State Controlled" approach to the environment.

As citizens of a relatively productive nation, we must never avoid the responsibility of acknowledging that we are all consumers and that producers only create the goods that we are willing and able to buy. We must understand that in order for us to survive as a human society, some pollution is inevitable. Therefore, a rational environmental goal is minimal pollution, within an environment of free market controls (of which government is an integral part), not zero pollution with politically-imposed restrictions and sanctions.

Beyond the basic protection of private property rights, the real solutions for protecting the environment from excessive pollution are technological and economic, not political. Freer (and thus more prosperous) societies invariably have cleaner environments than less free ones. This is because wealth and technology grow hand-in-hand, while a free market allows for an unlimited amount of wealth to be created.

We would:

- * **Protect private property rights to enable property owners to take legal action against anyone who pollutes their property or its environment;**
- * **Ensure that the responsibility for the clean up of pollution rests upon polluters;**
- * **Protect free markets to allow for the creation of wealth and technology which can be employed to reduce pollution.**

Freedom of Choice:

Fp believes that the purpose of government is to protect individual freedom of choice, not to restrict it. Freedom of choice goes hand-

in-hand with individual responsibility, and should not be confused with the 'free' choices being offered us by most other political parties.

We would:

- * **Work to ensure that Ontario law holds individuals responsible for the choices they voluntarily make;**
- * **Protect the rights and freedoms of all individuals from having the choices or preferences of others imposed upon them by law.**

Freedom of Speech:

Freedom of Speech is one of our fundamental freedoms and like all freedoms, is accompanied by a corresponding level of responsibility. Freedom of speech does NOT mean that there are no private or social barriers to the expression of certain ideas; it simply means that GOVERNMENT has no right to engage in prior restrictions of expression.

We would:

- * **Abolish the Ontario Film Review Board;**
- * **Abolish the Ontario Human Rights Commission;**
- * **Repeal any provincial legislation that restricts freedom of speech.**

Freedom Party:

Freedom Party is an officially-registered Ontario political party dedicated to putting freedom first in the consideration of any legislation that may affect the rights and freedoms of Ontario residents.

We will:

- * **Continue our political lobbying and WORK FOR FREEDOM, whether elected or not.**

(See 'Freedom', page 5.)

Free Enterprise:

Fp supports the right of individuals to engage in voluntary exchange on a free and open

market, with government neither favoring nor hindering the economic and/or business choices of those individuals. We also believe that the principles of free enterprise apply to labour as well as to business and that healthy competition in labour reaps the same benefits for society as does competition in business.

We would:

- * Phase out and abolish laws that restrict free enterprise and competitive markets;**
- * End government subsidies to business and to government job creation programs;**
- * Lower taxes and reduce government debt;**
- * Maintain a free competitive marketplace in both business and labour.**

Free Markets:

A free market refers to the right of individual consumers to freely choose the products they wish to buy (and who they buy them from), without being forced to do so by government. A free market does not mean a lawless or unregulated market. It means that the laws and regulations in place exist to prevent the use of physical or political coercion within the marketplace. It means that the government exists as a 'referee', and not a 'player in the game'.

We would:

- * Enforce legislation that protects consumers from fraud and misrepresentation in the marketplace;**
- * Reduce the economic role of government in the marketplace, and require that government (through its legal system) act as arbiter of any disputes or rights violations.**

Free Trade:

Free trade is a matter of individual right, and all political barriers to free trade violate that right. The right to choose those with whom we wish to trade goods, services, or even ideas --- regardless of where they happen to live --- is a right that should belong to each and

every individual in the world. Regrettably, governments the world over (and even our provincial governments) have erected barriers to "protect" their citizens from this freedom to trade with their international (and national) neighbours.

We believe that free trade between people is one hallmark of a free society. We would strive to enable the citizen to trade, free from government interference, with any citizen of any other jurisdiction.

We would:

- * Take every possible step to abolish any barriers to trade between provinces;**
- * Support any endeavour on the part of the Federal government to increase the freedom of citizens to trade with those in other countries.**

Fundamental Freedoms:

As defined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, our 'fundamental' freedoms are neither fundamental, nor guaranteed to Canadian citizens. Canada's current Charter has been worded so as to legally allow parliament to override the fundamental freedoms of Canadians for many purposes, including for the provision of government welfare programs.

We would:

- * Lobby and educate government and the public to abolish the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**
- * Rely on established Common Law principles and precedent to protect our fundamental freedoms.**

(See 'Charter of Rights & Freedoms'.)

Government:

Government is an institution holding a legalized monopoly on the use of retaliatory force within a given jurisdiction, and founded to administer and enforce justice within that jurisdiction. To this end, the only legitimate functions of a government in a free society are threefold: to provide for the courts, military, and police necessary to accomplish its objec-

tive of providing justice. Fp believes that the purpose of government is to protect individual freedom of choice, not to restrict it. To that end, government is necessary as an instrument of justice and should never be used to acquire unearned social or economic benefits, however desirable they may appear to be.

We would:

- * **Work to return government to its basic and necessary functions, as defined above;**
- * **Remove the power of government to INITIATE the use of physical force in human relationships;**
- * **Make certain that government acts only as a referee, not a 'player' in the marketplace.**

Gun Control:

Fp believes that the right to self defense is a fundamental freedom, and that the ownership of any instrument to facilitate this right should be legal and free from arbitrary 'registration'.

We would:

- * **Lobby the federal government to repeal Bill C-68;**
- * **Refuse to pay for the enforcement of the provisions of Bill C-68;**
- * **Uphold the citizen's right to the possession of private property (i.e. weapons).**

(See 'Self-Defense'.)

Health Care:

To ensure that government is able to guarantee health care accessibility and prevent catastrophic loss due to illness, Freedom Party support health care reforms by emphasizing an insurance-based, actuarially sound system of health care funding.

We would:

- * **Open the health system up to more private competition and allow Ontarians to opt out of the government-run insurance plan if they so choose;**

*** Privatize existing medical facilities so that they can run themselves, and not be run by government;**

*** Open the provision of health insurance up to private competition;**

*** Privatize the government health insurance system;**

*** End 'universality' (i.e., 'free' health care for all, regardless of ability to pay) so that any necessary government assistance can be affordably directed to those in demonstrable need of financial aid.**

Health Tax:

(See 'Health Care'.)

We would:

*** Place the responsibility for providing health insurance for individuals on the individual and private groups and businesses. (See 'Universality' and 'Poverty' for our policies on government's role as insurer or welfare provider.)**

Housing:

The provision of housing simply should never be a government activity. To make housing 'affordable', governments should direct financial aid to the specific individuals requiring assistance, not get into business. In this way, individuals can be helped in many ways, and the problems related to their shortage of money can be addressed more directly. (See 'Poverty', 'Unemployment'.)

We would:

- * **End rent controls;**
- * **Get the government out of the housing business;**
- * **Direct any existing government housing assistance directly to those in need.**

Human Rights Commission (Ontario):

Despite its benign sounding name, Ontario's Human Rights Commission (OHRC) itself

practices racism. A brief review of OHRC Board of Inquiry decisions illustrates that the OHRC regards all members of "visible minorities" as being weak, vulnerable, and intrinsically inferior to whites, and proceeds to enact legislation based on this belief.

The OHRC is exploiting the racial differences of Canadians and using those differences to justify a host of government policies that are redistributive in nature, and that have very little to do with justice or equality. Fp supports the abolition of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, since it is a quasi-judicial body which by-passes established principles of fundamental justice.

We would:

- * **Abolish the Ontario Human Rights Commission.**
- * **Lobby to have the federal Human Rights Commission abolished.**

Individual Rights:

Individual rights are the only kind of rights that actually exist, and individuals are the only social or political entity that can possess them. The term 'Group rights' or any of its variants is a misnomer: Since any group is only a given number of individuals, it cannot legitimately acquire any extra rights that its individual members do not already possess.

We would:

- * **Eliminate all legislated references to group rights;**
- * **Change/add/delete legislation as required to secure the individual rights of the citizen and to place the responsibility for that citizens actions/choices on that citizen.**

Insurance:

Government-run 'insurance' plans usually aren't 'insurance' plans at all. In practice they are forced TAX plans designed to transfer the wealth of some into the pockets of those who qualify for the given benefit. Fp believes that any plan being touted as 'insurance' must adhere to objective insurance standards,

being both ~~financially~~ and actuarially sound --- and voluntary.

We would:

- * **Get the government out of the insurance business (both provision and regulation);**
- * **Privatize any government institution that provides insurance.**

Interest Rates:

Interest is the cost of borrowing money; the specific rate represents the price of borrowing money at a given point in time. Like all commodities, money is affected by the laws of supply and demand. When governments borrow to excess, the supply of money available for loans drops, and interest rates must rise. Fp believes that governments should be operating on balanced budgets and not be permitted to accumulate debt.

We would:

- * **Require balanced budget legislation, to prevent the accumulation of debt, interest payments, and higher taxes;**
- * **Ensure that government does not artificially inflate or reduce the interest rate;**
- * **Lobby the federal government to allow for a free market in Canada's banking industry.**

Jobs:

A job is an economic relationship between an employer and an employee, voluntarily entered into, and often defined by a written or oral contract which state the terms of that relationship. Because it is a relationship, it is not appropriate to say that one has a 'right to a job', since that would be like saying anyone has a 'right' to a relationship even though the other party may not wish to consent to that relationship. However, individual should have the right to WORK, and to offer their services on a free and open labour market.

We would:

- * **Ensure that all employer-employee relationships are consensual;**

- * Ensure that the labour of Ontarians is not taxed (sales tax);
- * Lobby the federal government to make labour exempt from taxation (GST);
- * Uphold the terms of private agreements and contracts without political interference.

(See 'Unemployment')

Justice:

Over the past number of decades Canada has erroneously switched from a JUSTICE system to a LEGAL system in dealing with those who commit crimes against society. The basic causes for our loss of justice equity today are: **parole, plea bargaining, alternative sentencing, weak sentencing laws, the Young Offenders Act, and publication bans on trial evidence.**

The National Parole Act of 1959 unleashed a horde of nonjudicial civil servants who commenced to debase judicial justice, lower public confidence in justice, and encourage more criminals to commit more crimes and more serious crimes because they knew they could beat the system, gain early release and return to their criminal ways again.

Another legislative mistake was the Young Offenders Act of 1984. This act is a prime example of another piece of legislation based on a double-standard because the act grants youth (12 to 17) Adult Rights while providing blanket exemptions to the same age group from the Adult Application of the law.

We would:

- * Work to abolish the six dangerous practices listed above. In their place, establish mandatory minimum to maximum sentences for all serious crimes, especially for serious violent crimes;
- * Hold elected legislators accountable during re-election campaigns should they fail to set appropriate sentencing ranges on the most serious crimes;
- * Lobby the federal government to replace parole with TRUE SENTENCING, where inmates would serve their full sen-

tences unless changed through appeals to higher courts, but insuring that those appeals are not based on events after the crime unless the events were aggravating or mitigating factors as a result of the crime;

- * Advocate stiffer, more equitable, more certain, and more fair sentences that would be more relative to the CRIMES committed and less relative to the OFFENDERS who committed them.

* Advocate a Children's Act based on the principles of the former Juvenile Delinquents Act for those 7 to 13, based on Children's Rights with Children's Responsibilities, and some responsibilities for parents which the Young Offenders Act deleted. (For those 14 years and older, the Adult Courts should be sorting out the dispositions, and those fearful that youth would be put in adult prisons should be reminded that there is provision under Section 733 of the Criminal Code to place anyone up to the age of 20 years into a Youth Facility, a provision which has been in the Code for decades.)

* Emphasize the founding principle of criminal justice in a democracy: **EQUAL TREATMENT BEFORE AND UNDER THE LAW.** (Equity in Criminal Justice means sentences relative to the crime and the degree of involvement of the convicted offender, NOT sentences relative to the offender or how well he or she is represented before the court.)

- * Place the victim of crime first in the consideration of fines or punishments.

Law:

Law is the collective organization of the individual right to lawful defense. This common force of law exists to do only what the individual forces have a natural and lawful right to do: to protect persons, liberties, and properties; to maintain the right of each, and thus create an environment of justice.

Unfortunately, we are witnessing the law decline from something in the words of Blackstone, 'permanent, uniform and universal,' and binding on both government and

citizen alike, to an instrument of public policy, a tool for tyrants, a provider of legal fictions for dictators, and yes, even a means to the political ends of relatively benevolent democratic governments.

History draws for us an inescapable conclusion: that all social legislation is a perversion of the law; that governments, having seized control of the law, and thus being no longer bound by it, are able to use the law for their own purposes, to reward those whom they favour and to punish those whom they do not.

As a result, we have laws that force landlords to subsidize tenants, that force childless couples and individuals to support and educate the children of others, and that force businessmen and taxpayers to underwrite failing companies. Thus governments, abandoning their prime duty to protect our rights, rush to violate them.

Freedom Party believes that the purpose of government is to protect individual freedom of choice, not to restrict it. We believe that government has this specific function and that when any other goal becomes a priority for government, this function is abandoned, and the fabric of a free society begins to break down.

We would:

*** Ensure that no legislation advocated or supported by Freedom Party allows government to INITIATE the use of physical force;**

*** Work to repeal all legislation that is redistributive in nature. (Such laws convert plunder into a 'right', in order to protect continued plunder.)**

(See 'Justice'.)

Lobby Groups:

Lobby groups are an important and legitimate way for citizens to voice their opinions and have their causes publicized. However, regardless of their various causes, Fp believes that lobby groups should never be funded from taxpayer's money.

We would:

*** End all government funding of lobby groups;**

*** Protect the legitimate right of lobby groups to raise voluntary funds and to express their views.**

Majority Rule:

Fp believes that the principle of majority rule should never be applied to issues of individual rights, nor should it be used to restrict such rights. In an election, majorities are for electing representatives to the legislature, nothing more. In the legislature, a majority vote is required to pass legislation, but the majority vote itself should never be held as the standard of appropriate legislation.

We would:

*** Work to ensure that all citizens' fundamental freedoms are protected by law.**

(See 'Democracy'.)

Marijuana:

(See 'Drug Laws'.)

Market Value Assessment:

Fp is opposed to the MVA as a means of taxing residences. Property taxes should be based upon the actual value of municipal services provided to property owners.

We would:

*** Establish a system of paying for municipal services directly rendered to a specific property as the basis for municipal taxes.**

Medicare:

(See 'Health Care'.)

MPP Salaries & Pensions:

Fp supports MPP salaries and pensions that are in line with those of the private sector, and not 'gold-plated' at the expense of taxpayers.

We would:

- * Establish a salary and pension plan in accordance with what exists in the private sector;
- * Require the government to establish MPP salaries and benefits for the next electoral term during the current term.

Multiculturalism:

Fp fully applauds the multicultural nature of Canada. However, Fp does NOT support 'OFFICIAL multiculturalism' or any political policies where taxpayers or citizens are forced to subsidize cultural groups through tax dollars or through a loss of freedoms by regulation (i.e., language laws, tax-payer supported cultural television or radio stations, etc.)

We would:

- * End all government funding of multicultural groups;
- * End government programs that enforce a specific culture or support the enforcement of a specific culture;
- * Ensure that all individuals are free to hold and practice their own cultural values and customs, so long as such customs do not violate individual rights;
- * Privatize TV Ontario.

Official Bilingualism:

Fp admires the ability of any person to communicate in any number of languages. While the need for provision in services in another language may arise in some circumstances, we do not support the blanket provision of French language services in primarily English areas.

We would:

- * Repeal the requirements for the bilingual provision of services in Ontario;
- * Support the use of translators/interpreters when the use of ANY minority language is required in government services.

OHIP:

(See 'Health Care'.)

Ontario Hydro:

(See 'Crown Corporations'.)

Politics:

Favouring one group at the expense of others has become both the purpose of political power and the means by which it is maintained. Because political action represents force, Fp favours placing political force under objective laws that protect individual rights, rather than violate them through wealth distribution schemes.

We would:

- * Subject all of Freedom Party's policies and political action to Fp's statement of principles.
- * Disassociate the party from any Fp representative or candidate who misrepresents the party to the voting public.

Political Correctness:

(See 'Freedom of Speech', 'Academic Freedom'.)

Pollution:

(See 'Environment'.)

Poverty:

Poverty, as it applies to individuals, can be defined as a lack of riches or material possessions, but no definition can ever tell the whole story, and words can deceive.

Although there are obvious causes of poverty (lack of education, marketable skills, motivation, or courage), poverty also can be caused by government action and is often inflicted upon people who would not otherwise be poor. When misguided government policies bring economic chaos upon us, businesses fail, jobs vanish, homes are lost, and confidence is eroded.

Freedom Party contends that the ranks of the poor and jobless will continue to swell until such time as there is tax relief, perhaps even a tax holiday, for our businessmen.

People need jobs, not handouts, and jobs are created by business people (especially small business people), not politicians. Freedom Party contends that the ranks of the poor and jobless will continue to swell until such time as there is tax relief, perhaps even a tax holiday, for our business community.

We would:

- * **Lower taxes to free up more capital for job creation;**

- * **End universality in government social programs (where even those able to pay for their own services are not required to), so that government can direct any necessary assistance to those in demonstrable need.**

(See 'Unemployment'.)

Principles:

A principle is a fundamental, primary, or general truth, on which other truths depend. It is only through the implementation of valid principles that individuals are able to plan their futures and to achieve their goals. Unfortunately, in politics, principles have all but vanished from public discussion, and with good reason: The major political parties operate on principles which, if openly identified, would be immediately be rejected by a majority of voters.

Former Ontario premier Bill Davis, recognizing that operating a government on principle would conflict with his party's policies, explicitly referred to principles as a 'hang up' in politics, and demonstrated that expediency was one of the main principles on which the established parties operate.

Canadians have grown to believe that the ultimate struggle between capitalism (which is based on the principle of individual rights) and socialism (which is based on the principle of collective, or group rights) is somehow being fought along political party lines. But such is not the case. The only real difference between Ontario's major political parties is the

degree to which they each practice the principles of collectivism. Fp believes that a free society can only be based upon the principle of individual rights (freedom, voluntarism) and that to practice collectivism (statism, force) in any degree will ultimately lead to freedom's demise.

We would:

- * **Remove the recognition of any 'group' rights from provincial legislation;**

- * **Continually challenge and expose the principles on which other parties operate;**

- * **Offer to the Ontario electorate a party of principle at the polls: Freedom Party.**

Property Rights:

Those opposed to freedom often attempt to separate 'property rights' from 'human rights'. Of course, property does not have 'rights', only the humans who own and are responsible for property have any rights relating to that property. Property rights ARE human rights and are necessary to enable all individual rights. Like all rights, the right to property is a right to action, not a right to a specific object. Without property rights, none of our other rights or freedoms can exist.

We would:

- * **Protect the right to private property by governing as if property rights were entrenched in a constitution;**

- * **Work to abolish inheritance taxes.**

Property Taxes:

(See 'Market Value Assessment'.)

Protectionism:

(See 'Free Trade'.)

Public Transit:

(See 'Crown Corporations'.)

Quebec:

Since the demise of the Meech Lake Accord in June 1991, many observers seem to have lost confidence in the country's ability to deal with Quebec's increasingly radical demands. The doomsayers claim that in any future negotiations Canada's position is weak, and that we must avoid another Quebec referendum at all costs. The reality is far different than this bleak view suggests.

However vague and undefined their goal, the separatists are suffering from a delusion. The Quebec government has no recognized power to take the province out of Confederation. The Constitution provides arrangements for the admission of new provinces, but does not provide any mechanism by which a province may leave. Therefore Canada is in a position to dictate all the terms under which we would consider allowing Quebec to become independent. The only question in such an unlikely scenario is how high we should set the price.

We would:

- * **Make it clear that the principle of self-determination of peoples cannot apply to Quebec's situation. If it did, it would have ramifications that undermine even the separatists' goal. Simply stated, if Quebec can secede from Canada, parts of Quebec can secede from it;**

- * **Work towards constitutional and electoral reform that places individual rights as a higher priority than the division of political powers between provinces and the federal government.**

Racism:

Racism occurs whenever governments enact legislation designed to help or hinder select members of society based on their racial characteristics, real or assumed. Freedom Party does not support the mention of race, language, colour or ethnicity in any government legislation.

We would:

- * **Abolish the Human Rights Commission of Ontario;**

- * **Abolish government legislation forcing affirmative action on private relationships, economic or otherwise;**

- * **ELIMINATE ALL DEFINITIONS OF RACE, COLOUR, CREED, etc. in any legislation establishing rights, governments, or other official institutions;**

- * **Treat ALL Canadians, regardless of race or ethnicity, as EQUAL BEFORE AND UNDER THE LAW.**

Referendums:

As a supporter of a free representative democracy, Fp supports the use of referendums under two circumstances only: (1) to approve of Constitutional amendments, and (2) to approve or reject tax increases.

We would:

- * **Lobby the federal government to ensure that Canadians get the final say on any Constitutional changes or amendments;**

- * **Hold any necessary provincial referendums on constitutional change or provincial tax increases;**

- * **Introduce legislation requiring municipalities to hold mandatory binding referendums for any tax increases.**

Rent Controls:

On the basis of both theory and practice, rent controls must be condemned on both practical and moral grounds. They are objectionable in practice because they do not work; they are morally reprehensible because they violate individual rights. Rent controls prevent landlords from exercising their right to the fair market value of the service they provide, a right freely available to all their fellow citizens. Rent controls force landlords to give an unearned and unagreed-to benefit to tenants, without recompense. They limit landlords' income, but not their costs. Fp does not support any legislation which violates private property rights.

We would:

- * **End all rent controls and other price controls on private property;**

* **Direct any necessary government housing assistance directly to those in need without forcing the private market to universally subsidize all renters.** (See 'Welfare'.)

Self Defense:

With its legalized monopoly on the use of force, the Canadian government has increasingly and steadily been taking away the inalienable right of Canadians to self-defense. With virtually every instrument of self-defense being prohibited (guns, knives, pepper spray, stun guns, etc.), citizens are increasingly being left dependent on over-stressed police resources for their first line of self-defense. Fp believes that the use of force as an act of self-defense is both justifiable and reasonable in a free society.

We would:

* **Make the use of weapons in the commission of a crime a more serious offense;**

* **Protect the right of individuals to lawful self-defense, including their right to own defensive weapons without the necessity of registration;**

* **Register offenders, not law-abiding owners of weapons.**

* **Lobby the federal government to repeal 'gun control' legislation.**

Socialism:

Many people believe that 'socialism' is a benevolent system of government that protects disadvantaged and needy people. Unfortunately, the distinguishing characteristic of socialism is not charity (which by definition is voluntary), but the use of government force in the 'redistribution' of wealth earned by some to the supposed benefit of others. Freedom Party rejects the notion that some people can be helped by confiscating the wealth of others, since it is that very wealth which, when invested in productive enterprise by those who earned it, will provide the means and opportunities necessary to make self-sufficiency an achievable goal for all.

We would:

* **Work to protect earnings from unlimited and ever-increasing tax rates (via a Taxpayer Protection Act);**

* **Educate the public about what socialism actually is, and why it cannot 'work', either in theory or in practice.**

* **Advocate and demonstrate laissez-faire capitalism as the only moral economic system available to mankind.**

(See also 'Welfare', 'Taxation', 'Capitalism'.)

Sunday Shopping:

Although now a fact in Ontario life, Sunday shopping was once illegal in this province. Laws forcing a select group of retailers to close their doors to customers on Sundays were supported by all three major parties: Liberal, Conservative, and New Democratic alike. Ironically, it was the party most opposed to Sunday shopping (the NDP) that liberalized Ontario's Sunday shopping laws, while Freedom Party was the only political party in Ontario with an active Sunday shopping campaign throughout the entire period when the laws were being liberalized. Unfortunately, the NDP's reasons for repealing the Retail Sales and Holidays Act had little to do with the protection of private property rights, and thus there are still many elements of labour legislation that impact upon those who employ workers on Sundays.

We would:

* **Repeal any labour legislation that treats Sunday labour practices or business hours any differently from any other day of the week.**

Taxation:

Taxes levied by all three levels of government have risen steadily year by year for the last forty years, as politicians have conscripted more and more of our personal income --- and personal choice. Now governments are taking more than 50% of the average worker's pay, not counting some of the hidden taxes like inflation, artificially high interest rates, and the cost to businesses of complying with

regulations, which is always passed on to the consumer.

Every economic policy initiative of Freedom Party is aimed at lowering taxes and increasing personal choice and individual freedom. We will consistently vote against any new type of government spending and work steadily to decrease existing spending.

Freedom Party considers that the level of taxation is a measure of the denial of our personal freedoms. We believe that you know how to spend your money better than any politician does, and that the choice of where your money goes should be yours.

We would:

- * Lower income and sales taxes;**
- * Free up the marketplace to compensate for necessary government cutbacks in government services;**
- * Require balanced budget legislation and reductions of the provincial debt.**

Unemployment:

There is always an unlimited potential for jobs, and never any shortage of work to do. Unemployment is not caused by a shortage of work to do, but by a shortage of employers relative to the number of employees available at a given price. When people say that they want a 'job', what they really mean is that they are offering to trade their labour for money, but have not yet found anyone willing to trade on terms they wish to accept.

Job creation schemes have been in vogue with all the established parties for many years: Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, and New Democrats alike.

The only certain effect of government job creation schemes is the transfer of spending power from consumers to politicians, or to put it more bluntly, the transfer of wealth from people who earned it to the people who didn't.

Any jobs "created" by governments may or may not produce something of value, but the products will always tend to be of lower value than what the consumers would have bought

with their own earnings. Otherwise they would have bought those products themselves and there would have been no reason for politicians to intervene. State job creation, like all state spending, reduces consumer freedom of choice by substituting compulsory spending for voluntary spending.

Freedom Party will never support any kind of state "job creation" schemes. We do support all kinds of natural, consumer-initiated forms of job creation, of which there would be plenty to be had if only the hundreds of laws forbidding and regulating voluntary private contracts among workers and employers were repealed. (Compulsory payroll deductions and minimum wage laws to name a couple.)

We would:

- * Lower taxes and protect savings to allow for increased capital formation. (Government destruction of capital via taxes, borrowing, and inflation is the greatest single job destroyer in our midst.);**
- * Ban government wage controls and eliminate minimum wage laws, which are unnecessary and exist only to protect high-paying jobs from low-paying labour competition;**
- * Privatize the education system so that it can become responsive to market and employer demands by providing training and skills upgrades;**
- * Eliminate workfare, which interferes with prices in the labour market, and which would be unnecessary once minimum wage laws have been repealed;**
- * Re-introduce the apprenticeship principle to allow unskilled labour a means to enter the job market at a price affordable to employers;**
- * Work to make union membership and dues voluntary;**
- * Reduce economic regulations that discourage savings and interfere with private voluntary contract;**
- * Lobby the federal government to place any existing government unemployment**

insurance schemes (now euphemistically called 'employment' insurance) on an actuarially sound basis, and to make UI premiums voluntary.

Unions:

The concept of unions originated as a means of giving workers a stronger voice when negotiating with their employer, and under the right conditions, there's nothing wrong with collective bargaining.

If two or more employees believe that they have a better bargaining position by forming an association, or if a company decides it is easier to deal with a single employee representative rather than with (possibly) hundreds of individuals, who could fault either side? Both parties are well within their rights to try to promote their point of view in the most favourable or convenient manner possible.

In practice, however, union activity increasingly has less and less to do with the relationship described above. Although it often seems otherwise, there is a very important concept that is ignored and which is key to the problem with unions today. That concept is called freedom of choice.

Fp supports freedom of association and as a consequence believes that union membership and dues should be voluntary on an individual basis.

We would:

- * Work to make both union membership and dues voluntary.**

Universality:

Under 'universality' in our government social programs, we all lose. As tax-paying citizens, we are promised a myriad of social programs and benefits, which are justified to 'help those in need,' or some variant of an argument which appeals to our natural desire to help others. Unfortunately, when such programs are enacted, they are universal --- not just for those in need, but for everybody. But if everyone's in the 'safety net', who's holding it up?

Universality will inevitably destroy or radically change the fundamental nature of Canada's social programs, particularly two of the most expensive of our universal government programs: health care and education.

We would:

- * Introduce multi-tiered health and education systems;**
- * Allow private funds to pay for health and education;**
- * Direct government assistance only to those in demonstrable need.**

Wealth:

Fp believes that the potential for wealth creation is virtually infinite. We do not share the view that there is a fixed amount of wealth in existence or that it is the government's job to redistribute wealth for the sake of economic equity. It's a fact: prosperity and freedom go hand-in-hand.

We would:

- * Provide for free markets and ensure that government does not meddle in the marketplace;**
- * Lower taxes;**
- * Protect consumers and business from fraud with strong legislation protecting private property rights and private contracts.**

Welfare:

Fp believes that government assistance to those in need should be the last recourse to consider, rather than the first. As an 'entitlement', government welfare has become increasingly motivated out of envy and resentment than by compassion. While taxpayers have no legal protection from an unlimited demand made upon their earnings and wealth, standards of 'poverty' have become arbitrary and no longer subject to any means tests. Not surprisingly, as an expensive government welfare bureaucracy continues to grow even in times of plenty, 'poverty' grows right along with it.

The monopolization or subsidization of services used by the poor is demonstrably NOT the way to help them. Government assistance should be directed directly to individuals or families in need, not to the service industries which they may happen to use (i.e., public transit, housing, etc.).

We would:

- **Narrow the definition of 'poverty' to include only those in demonstrable need;**

- **End universality in social programs, so that resources may be conserved and so that assistance can be aimed directly to those in need;**

- **Allow taxpayers to deduct charitable contributions directly from their taxes paid or payable;**

- **Introduce the 'Dutch-clock' principle for welfare recipients which, while limiting benefits to a fixed term, will allow them to earn extra income without fear of having welfare benefits cut during that term.**

Workers' Compensation:

A return to the concept of Workers' Compensation as accident insurance is long overdue. The first and most significant thing that needs to be done is to distinguish "insurance" from social assistance. Insurance has several major determining characteristics that have been lacking in the current system. The compensation system in Ontario has been the source of most of its own problems by ignoring these characteristics.

We would:

- **Return to the concept of accident**

insurance as opposed to social assistance;

- **Allow the private sector to insure employers/employees for non-compensable claims;**

- **Allow for civil action to be taken in non-compensable situations;**

- **Ensure that any existing government programs have premiums based on risk and performance;**

- **End "double-dipping" via compensation pensions and wages from an employer.**

- **Eventually privatize all workers' insurance plans and make participation in such plans voluntary;**

- **Work to ensure that the courts operate on the principle of holding both employers and employees responsible for any demonstrable role they may have in any workplace mishap or accident requiring compensation. This would motivate each to ensure that they have adequate insurance coverage, and can also be made part of an employment contract.**

Workfare:

'Workfare' is simply government job creation in a disguised form. Either an individual is receiving welfare as an entitlement, or he/she is being paid for work. We can't have it both ways, and being dishonest or misleading about the nature of our social programs is not the solution to unemployment.

(See 'Unemployment' and 'Welfare'.) {END}

WHERE WE STAND

Member's Draft - December 1998, is published by the Freedom Party of Ontario.

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** (tax-creditable); **Provincial Executive:** *Ontario President:* Robert Metz; *Ontario Vice-president:* William Frampton; *Ontario Secretary:* Barry Malcolm; *Chief Financial Officer:* Patti Plant; *Executive Officers:* Gordon Mood, Paul Blair; **Party Leader:** Lloyd Walker.

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