

FREEDOM FLYER

#37 - THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO



JULY, 2006

- ELECTION 2007 EDITION #1 -

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BILLBOARDS ANNOUNCE Fp 2007 ONTARIO ELECTION PLATFORM



"The Right Direction 2007..."

BOLD VISION, CLEAR POLICIES, FRANK APPROACH DISTINGUISH Fp PLATFORM

TORONTO - October 4, 2005 - Exactly two years to the day before the next expected provincial election, Freedom Party's 2007 election platform was released at a media briefing held at the downtown *Strathcona Hotel*.

The event coincided with Fp's first-ever launching of a provincial-wide billboard campaign (see pages 4-5) drawing attention to Fp's key platform issues.

Fp PLATFORM TARGETS TAXES, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION

Freedom Party's full-color *Right Direction 2007 Election Platform* is a unique political document on every front. It begins with an introduction by Fp leader Paul McKeever which establishes that *values* are what Freedom Party is really all about: "Freedom Party is a uniquely principled organization formed for and by equally principled individuals (who) hold rationality, ethics, justice, democracy and freedom as values upon which (we) will make no compromise." For the complete text of this introduction, see page 8.

The rest of the platform consists of detailed descriptions and color illustrations relating to each plank in the platform: (1) Scrap Ontario's Income Tax, (2) Legalize Faster Better Health Care, (3) Improve Education through Choice, (4) Improve the Supply Of Electricity, (5) Restore Fair Auto Insurance, (6) Scrap Property Taxes, and (7) a final section on Budgetting Better Health Care And Education. More details, reactions, and insights follow on the inside pages of this newsletter.

{end}

**"WHO IS
FRANK?"
SOLD-OUT Fp
DINNER a BIG
HIT! - see pg 6**

Openers...

SOME FRANK TALK ABOUT FREEDOM PARTY --- AND FREEDOM

GREAT EXPECTATIONS vs NO EXPECTATIONS

- Robert Metz

{Robert Metz is a founding member and president of the Freedom Party of Ontario.}

From an objective point of view (namely mine), Freedom Party is the best political party ever invented. Sure, I'm one of the founding members of the party, but I didn't invent or create Freedom Party. Freedom Party has evolved into something much larger than any one of us individually, thanks to the work, support, and wisdom of people dedicated to 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."

I had no idea, in 1984 when Freedom Party was founded, just where that moral proposition would lead us. But I had expectations.

Only a few years earlier, and when I was well into my late twenties, I was vaguely aware that something was seriously wrong with the way we were being governed. But like so many others, I was a political illiterate, not knowing the difference between left, right, center, or which of Ontario's political parties fit into which color of the political spectrum. (They're all 'red'.) I do recall, however, my absolute astonishment, in a country that supposedly holds freedom as its highest ideal and which has sent its soldiers to die "for freedom", to discover that no political party or group wanted

the name Freedom Party. Just about every other reasonable (and some unreasonable) name you could think of for a political party was already taken or reserved for official registration. But no one ever started a Freedom Party.

"We fought tax increases --- and won. We fought government spending on grandiose stadium projects and sports events --- and won. We fought three entrenched and elected Ontario political parties, each vehemently opposed to Sunday shopping in Ontario --- and won.

But when it comes to Ontario elections, we still haven't won one yet."

I didn't expect *that*. (Today I know why, but that's the subject of another story.)

However, there's one thing I *did* expect from the very beginning, an expectation that might deter most from getting involved with a new political party. Then, as today, I fully understood the enormity of the task before us --- and its necessity. We were, and still are, pioneers on a road never travelled --- one *away* from more government control, higher taxes, ever-increasing government spending, and less of everything else.

(Most are tragically unaware that freedom has never been won within a majority rule process, which *always* moves away from freedom to-

wards tyranny. Historically, freedom was always won by civil disobedience, law breaking, revolution, and even war.)

On a television news broadcast aired almost eighteen years ago, we let the media know that Freedom Party candidates only expected to get one or two percent of the vote, but that the important thing for any new political party to do was to field candidates. I was quoted thusly: "There's the element of *political* credibility. Can you be electable in the immediate future? Well that's something that when we started this party we knew would be at least a decade or two away. Credibility in an

election is (totally different from what most expect). It isn't related to your ideas - directly - it's related more to the credibility of the *organization* behind the ideas, and its consistency, and its ability to be there election after election." (November 3, 1988 - *Behind The News - Ch10 London Ontario; you can see the entire video clip available on line*)

Since the very beginning, Freedom Party has consistently increased its number of candidates in each successive election, starting with three in 1985 and reaching two dozen in the last Ontario election. But even fielding a full slate of candidates, though

(cont'd on next page...)

(...cont'd from prev page)

necessary, is not enough to reach critical mass, the tipping point, the time at which Freedom Party will be perceived as an 'overnight success' and elect its first member to the legislature.

Today, we have the best platform ever offered by a political party, an informed, educated and articulate party leader, Paul McKeever, who can out-debate any of the other party leaders on any of the major issues.

Moreover, we have a track record of effective education and lobby efforts which are documented for all to see in our past newsletters and on line: We fought tax increases --- and won. We fought government spending on grandiose stadium projects and sports events --- and won. We fought three entrenched and elected Ontario political parties, each vehemently opposed to Sunday shopping in Ontario --- and won.

But when it comes to Ontario elections, we still haven't won one yet.

With electoral returns barely reaching 1% for Freedom Party candidates in the recent Ontario by-elections, it's easy to believe that Freedom Party is not making any progress towards its goal of becoming an electable party in Ontario.

Everyone has a theory: "You're 'splitting the right'; you don't field enough candidates to form a majority; I haven't seen you in the papers; your candidates aren't high profile enough; your party's name is wrong; no one's ever heard of you; you can't win; your policies are too extreme; you're being

'too frank' with the public; why bother? - it won't make any difference anyway." And so on.

They've all got it wrong. Whether true or not, and most are not, none of these things are relevant to the goal of getting elected.

The early vote totals of any new political party will tell you nothing about that party other than the fact that a candidate was fielded in the riding.

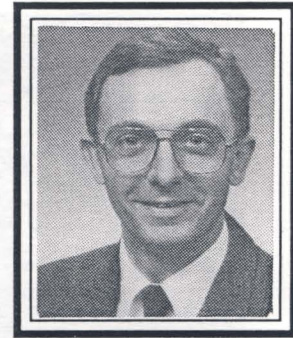
SOME FRANK TALK ABOUT GETTING ELECTED:

The inertia of incumbency and voter loyalty is difficult for most to appreciate and requires a clear context and perspective. Given my corporate and business background and experience, I already knew, some eighteen years ago that it would be at least twenty years

"Getting elected has little to do with what a candidate or party represents in terms of philosophy, policy, or direction."

before most Ontarians could even say they've heard of Freedom Party, let alone feel confident in voting for the party. Let's face it, in any given 20 year period, political parties only get four to five meaningful 'kicks at the can', that is, opportunities to field candidates. This alone should speak to the reality of the time constraints involved in having so few pathetically short election periods in so long a period of time.

Now here's something even more daunting, and probably something you don't even *want* to know, but which is



Freedom Party President

Robert Metz

nevertheless an inescapable fact: Getting elected has little to do with what a candidate or party represents in terms of philosophy, policy, or direction. Almost nothing. Philosophy and policy are important for other reasons, but not directly for getting elected.

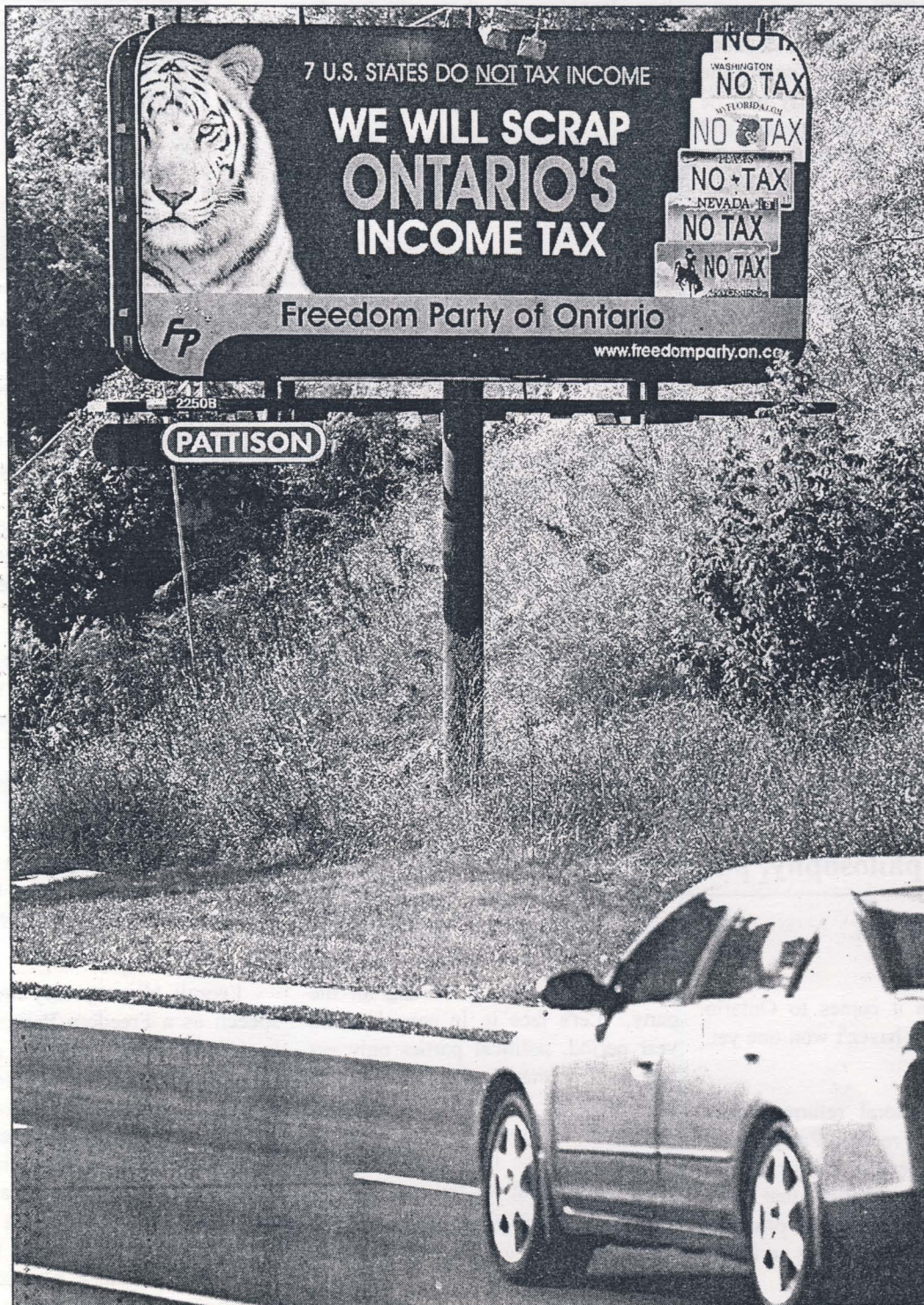
If I just wanted to 'get elected,' I probably could have done so already (and so could most of you who are reading this), by running for one of the two most 'electable' parties. But my getting elected with one of the major parties would not only have destroyed any ability on my part to work for freedom, but would have forced me to actually work against freedom.

I recall, after my very first election speech as a Freedom Party candidate in London South (1985), incumbent and Conservative candidate Gordon Walker, noticing how warmly the audience reacted to my message, invited me to consider becoming a Conservative --- right there at the all candidates' debates in plain sight for everyone to see and hear. If Walker really liked what I was saying, he should have been a Freedom Party candidate, not a conservative.

(OPENERS ...cont'd on page 14...)

Freedom Party
Life, Liberty, Property.

TAX TARGETED



MIKE HENSON The London Free Press

A motorist drives past a new billboard on London's Horton Street yesterday that signals the coming election season, with the Freedom Party of Ontario releasing the first plank in its platform — a vow to abolish provincial income tax. The alternative party says scrapping provincial income tax would go hand in glove with its policy to give Ontarians a choice between public and private health care and education, freeing up money in their pockets for that choice. The next Ontario election will be held in October 2007.

OCT 7 2005

IN-YOUR-FACE BILLBOARDS SPEAK DIRECTLY TO ONTARIO VOTERS

TORONTO, LONDON - October 4, 2005 - Motorists driving along the Don Valley Parkway in Toronto, and along Horton Street in London were among the first to see Freedom Party's billboards announcing its 2007 Election Platform, *The Right Direction*.

For Freedom Party itself, the billboards also marked the first time this medium was being used to appeal directly to voters.

The billboards serve two essential purposes: (1) to by-pass the media as the 'middle-man' between the party and the public, and (2) to increase public awareness and media reaction.

It should be noted that the two separate *London Free Press* items appearing on either side of this column represent more coverage of our upcoming 2007 election platform than the paper offered Freedom Party during the entire last Ontario general election.

Moreover, the billboards seem to have had the effect we were seeking on public awareness. Overheard by an Fp supporter in a London business office was the following unsolicited comment directed by one fellow employee to another: "Did you know that seven US states don't have income tax?" Once voters perceive that this possibility actually exists in reality, no further explanations are necessary --- though they are available for the few who ask.

At Right: from the *London Free Press*, October 9, 2005. Coverage offering overview of Freedom Party's 2007 election campaign ends on a detour of irrelevancy.

The result of intensive research, preparation and planning, Freedom Party's platform and marketing strategy for the 2007 election campaign are complete and second to none. Fp's platform, the *Right Direction 2007*, has also increased media attention and coverage for Freedom Party on the issues, as opposed to elections (see samples on page 9). Calling for the elimination of Ontario's income tax and property tax, along with a call to legalize faster better health care, Fp's platform is being given serious consideration by major influential media and

other key policy makers.

Between now and October 2007, the number of Fp billboards seen by Ontario voters will be determined by the level of financial support contributed. High-profile billboards are an expensive proposition, costing approximately \$2500 per billboard per month.

It's an investment well worth making, especially in light of Freedom Party's long-term vision for a better Ontario and a freer society. {end}

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Freedom party kicks off campaign

The tiny Ontario party hopes to field a full slate of 107 candidates in the next election.

BY CHIP MARTIN
Free Press Politics Reporter

The tiny Freedom Party of Ontario has begun campaigning for the next provincial election slated for October 2007.

The libertarian-oriented party unveiled its platform and billboard signs — including one in London on Horton Street — that draw attention to that platform.

The first billboards promise to ban the Ontario income tax that was introduced to help fund public health care in 1969.

The early start is intended to draw attention to the party and help it find candidates, said Paul McKeever, the Oshawa employment lawyer who leads the party founded in London in 1984.

"We have two years to get our platform out," he said.

The party had 23 candidates in 2003 and McKeever is hopeful a full slate of 107 can be fielded this time.

Main features of the platform are the plan to kill off the Ontario income tax, lower taxes and providing Ontarians a choice between public and private health care and education.

Freedom of choice is the essential element in the party philosophy, which decries too much government control on the lives of individuals.

McKeever said the party has stolen a page from the third-place Progressive Conservatives of Mike Harris, who released their Common Sense Revolution 18 months before the 1995 provincial election, promoted it heavily, recruited candidates and went on to win the election.

The Freedom party was founded by former Londoner Marc Emery and Bob Metz.

Emery's long-standing opposition to federal marijuana laws and his shipping of seeds to customers in the United States has made him a wanted man south of the border.

He is fighting extradition.

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FREEDOM PARTY 'MYSTERY' DINNER EXCITES, DELIGHTS ATTENDEES

LONDON - October 29, 2005 - Perhaps it was the great speakers. Perhaps it was the dazzling multi-media show. Perhaps it was the great food and sharing in company of like-minded people. Perhaps it was the great gifts distributed at the end of the event. Perhaps it was the story of Frank, the magnificent white tiger that has been adopted as Freedom Party's mascot. Whatever the reasons, or any and all combinations of these reasons, it was clear by the reactions of those who attended Fp's dinner event that everyone had a great time and was excited about the party's plans for the next provincial election and beyond.

Featuring Freedom Party founding member and president Robert Metz and Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever as the two keynote speakers, Freedom Party's 'WHO IS FRANK?' dinner event revealed the answer to that question in an entertaining and stimulating way.

Held at the *Seven Dwarf's Restaurant* in London, attendees were treated to a video performance of Fp leader Paul McKeever in action, promoting and defending Fp's platform during the last provincial election (2003). Video highlights included coverage by CTV, TV Ontario's Steve Paikin on *Studio 2*, and Jim Chapman on *Rogers Cable* in London. Attendees got to see tough questions asked, expressions of disbelief directed at either Fp's policies or the party's chances of success, and background information on Paul McKeever himself --- as seen through the eyes of the media. They also got to see a an informed and articulate party leader more than capable of answering any of these questions or concerns, one committed to his goals and objec-

tives --- and to freedom and Freedom Party itself.

Most importantly, attendees were treated to some frank talk about politics, the voting process, and Freedom Party's role in future Ontario elections.

It was clear that McKeever was the star performer for the evening. His candor, sense of humor, and sincerity established a personal connection with the audience, most having never met him before.

"Most people will die never having read a political platform," McKeever observed, citing the necessity of using symbolism and branding as a means of communicating to the public.

"We live in a ten second sound byte world. We must be able to communicate with the voter in ten seconds or less, what it is that Freedom Party is all about. We have to brand the party. A big part of branding is symbolism. The golden arches will always be a reminder of *McDonalds*. A bell will probably always make us think of telephones.

"There aren't very many symbols associated with freedom. There are plenty for communism. There aren't very many symbols of freedom that aren't purely American, like the Statue of Liberty or the American Flag itself."

And with that, McKeever went on to tell the tale of a symbol of freedom with a uniquely Canadian connection.

Referring to slaves in the state of Mississippi who, during the early

1800s, were intentionally denied knowledge about geography or direction lest they escape and head north, McKeever told the tale of the song with the words: "Follow the drinking gourd; the old man's gonna take you to freedom."

The song was used as a means of helping slaves escape through the underground railroad to Canada by teaching them which way was north. The "drinking gourd" was the big dipper constellation in the sky, and two of the stars in the big dipper point directly to the north star, *Polaris*, which had become a symbol of freedom to many.

Through some great story telling (with some often humorous anecdotes), McKeever weaved a path demonstrating how and why the star *Polaris* has now become Fp's symbol of destination, the compass Fp's symbol of direction, and 'Frank' the white tiger as Fp's symbol of ethics and values.

Throughout it all, his captivated audience seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

A transcript of McKeever's presentation will be published in the near future. It's an exciting story to hear again and again and goes a long way to explain what Freedom Party is all about.

As to the definitive answer to the dinner's key theme and question for the evening: WHO IS FRANK?

FREEDOM PARTY's FRANK!

That's who. {end}

DINNER ATTENDEES MEET 'FRANK' - FREEDOM PARTY'S NEW MASCOT

FREEDOM PARTY'S FRANK

Meet Frank, the white tiger: proof positive that some things are black and white.

Frank is found only in nature. Having the power both to nurture life and to defend it, he is a constant reminder that nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed.

You cannot find Frank if you do not look for him. Hidden in the dark jungle of politics, Frank can be found only by the light of human reason.

Some try to get by without finding him. Others try to deny his existence by telling themselves that nothing is black and white. But the occasional flash of his penetrating eyes through the gray jungle mists betrays such efforts. Deep down, we all know one inescapable truth: the temporary feeling of security and comfort that we get from avoiding the thought of Frank actually puts our lives and our happiness at risk.

Yet those who find and befriend Frank know that his only agenda is justice, and that his only special interest is freedom. Indeed, the name Frank quite literally, means "free". Just as importantly, "Frank" also means "honest and forthright". So when you hear Frank roar "Some things are black and white!", respond to it as a call to choose freedom, and to be honest and forthright in defending it.

Who must *You* be to be Free?



FREEDOM: I can't be free without being frank.

RESPONSIBILITY: I can't be frank without being responsible.

ACTION: I can't be responsible without taking action.

NOBILITY: I can't take responsible action without being right.

KNOWLEDGE: I can't be right without knowledge of the world and how one must live in it.



Life. Liberty. Property.

Who is FRANK? --- Freedom Party's Frank!

A message from PAUL McKEEVER Leader, Freedom Party of Ontario

Our early release of Freedom Party's 2007 election platform - a full two years prior to the next provincial election - serves several purposes. It provides a standard by which to judge the other parties' election platforms; it gives you time to investigate Freedom Party's proposals further; it demonstrates our confidence that this election platform will withstand criticism. Although no other party has yet released an election platform for Ontario's 2007 election, I believe I can already say with confidence that the proposals set out in this platform are different from, and better than, any you might eventually see coming from the Progressive Conservatives, the Liberals, or the NDP: three parties trying desperately to get elected without upsetting their union and corporate funders.

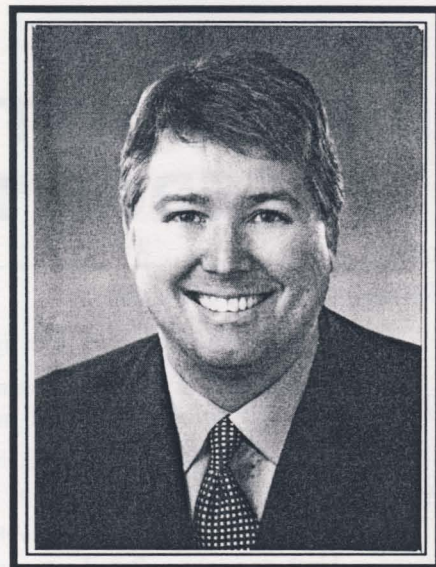
That said, a political party's values, not its election promises, are your surest guide to the sort of government each party would form. It is at that level - the level of values - that Freedom Party is most clearly distinguishable from the Liberals, the Progressive Conservatives, the NDP and other political parties.

There are those who say that there is no such thing as right and wrong; that what is right for one person might be wrong for another; that everything is relative and subjective; that nothing is black and white; that everything is shades of gray. Tellingly, they feel absolutely certain that they are right.

Such people are easily recognized in the political world. They propose that feelings should trump reason; that emotional whims should prevail over what reason tells us is ethical; that justice is "too judgmental" and "unfair"; that democracy is just another word for majority rule; that freedom means not having to take responsibility for one's own life and happiness. They are the first to demand that nobody judge them, and that nobody be judged. Indeed, their wish to do wrong without being held to account is the very reason why they pretend that there is no such thing as right and wrong.

Not everyone shares that dishonest and self-serving view of how society should be. There are those of us who believe that rationality is the essence of civility. We believe that right and wrong is black and white, and that there is only one word for a compromise between right and wrong: corruption. We do not fear judgment because we do not wish to do injustice to anyone. We advocate democracy for what it truly is: a system in which government must be judged by the same ethical code as the governed because it is comprised of the governed, and acts on no other authority; a system in which government cannot make unjust laws, even when a majority wants it to do so. We advocate freedom because we acknowledge and accept personal responsibility for our own lives and happiness, and because we know it is ethically wrong and unjust for us to be forcibly deprived of our lives, our liberty or our property.

We are as the white tiger, whose stripes make no corrupt compromise between right and wrong. Freedom is our unmoving pole star and



point of reference. We seek government that navigates a course to a more rational, good, and just society using not the whimsical winds of public opinion, but a compass that points government in the right direction.

Freedom Party is a uniquely principled organization formed for and by equally principled individuals, like you. It is an organization whose members demand a government that defends civilization: a society distinguished by its

optimistic, peaceful and hope-filled pursuit of happiness rather than a jungle plagued by a pessimistic, nasty fear of a worsened

life. To proudly support Freedom Party is to tell the world, unequivocally, that you hold rationality, ethics, justice, democracy and freedom as values upon which you will make no compromise.

As we approach the election of 2007, your proud support for Freedom Party is more important than ever. When you have finished reading Freedom Party's platform, I hope that you will lend it to others with your full and confident endorsement. Word of mouth, coming from those who demonstrate a belief in the honest and peaceful pursuit of happiness, is our greatest and most powerful tool for freedom. Thank you.

Toronto, October 4, 2005

"It is at the level of values, not policies, that Freedom Party is most clearly distinguishable from other political parties."

Consumption tax cure for revenue 'gap'

PAUL MCKEEVER

Gap-osis has become an all too common and embarrassing syndrome. A government in one jurisdiction allows its expenditures to exceed its revenues, then blames its deficit on "under-funding" by a senior level of government. The asking government claims there is a "gap" between the total tax paid by people who live within its jurisdiction and the amount ultimately spent there. Asserting that it is the "engine that drives" the economy, the asking government demands its "fair share" of tax revenues.

Canada's gap-osis poster boy has most certainly become Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty who — with the politically correct approval of the province's Progressive Conservative and NDP parties — has been demanding a share of federal tax revenues to make up for a \$23-billion "gap."

However, gap-osis is also running amok at the municipal level in Toronto. City councillors, welfare advocates, the Toronto Board of Trade: None are able (i.e., willing) to escape a politically advantageous gap-osis affliction. In addition to more autonomy for Toronto council, they have all been demanding provincial cash to close a gap between the provincial taxes paid by "Torontonians" (by which they mean everyone living in or around the City of Toronto) and the provincial funds spent in Toronto (by which they mean only the city).

What is more, the city's demands are actually more justifiable than the province's when one considers the narrowness of the city's tax base and the breadth of the province's.

As a result, with the province too strapped to continue shelling out provincial revenues to municipalities that are spending more than they take in, McGuinty has been put in an embar-

assing situation: He cannot very well argue that diverting provincial revenues to municipalities is wrong while arguing that diverting federal revenues to Ontario is right.

McGuinty's problem has unmistakably influenced the province's newly introduced Bill 53, which facilitates governance and financing reforms for the City of Toronto. The bill is purportedly the result of consultations and research, commenced in 2004, to ensure a fiscally sustainable and accountable governance of the province's largest city. Yet it has long been obvious that the most effective way to make a government

RESPONSIBLE

GOVERNMENTS PAY WITH THEIR OWN REVENUES

spend in a responsible, sustainable and accountable way is to ensure that it pays for those expenditures with its own revenues, and raises those revenues responsibly, sustainably and accountably.

Since the election of 2003, my party has proposed a set of municipal finance reforms that acknowledge the effectiveness of that approach. Specifically, we propose that municipal property taxes be eliminated and replaced, in each municipality, with a consumption tax. In particular, we propose that each municipality be permitted to impose, within its boundaries, a municipal premium collected as part of the Provincial Income Tax (PST). Municipal taxes, hence municipal spending, would be kept low by market forces. Each municipality would determine its own premium with knowledge that, if the premium is raised too high, customers and businesses will be en-

couraged to do their shopping and selling out of town.

Similar proposals have more recently found their way into recommendations by non-partisan entities, such as the Toronto Board of Trade. Yet, despite the broad appeal of these proposed reforms, the McGuinty government has decided to proceed with legislation that aims to resolve its own political dilemma by exposing taxpayers to the possibility of even more irresponsible, unsustainable and unaccountable taxing and spending by the government of Toronto.

By titling Bill 53 the Stronger City of Toronto for a Stronger Ontario Act, 2005, McGuinty has made a transparent attempt to bolster his bid for federal cash. He is suggesting that he walks his Ottawa talk about a "stronger province of Ontario for a stronger Canada." However, the bill does little to improve the lot of taxpayers. It does not remedy municipal reliance on property taxes, which are both economically unsound and unjust. It does not impose any checks or balances on excessive municipal taxation or imprudent municipal spending.

Rather, the bill functions primarily to reduce the likelihood of further demands by Toronto for provincial revenue. Once Bill 53 is passed, any Toronto demands for provincial revenues can be met with a response from McGuinty that the city does not need provincial funds. He will argue that, unlike other municipalities, Toronto now wields some of the province's taxing power, such that the city now has a broad enough tax base to satisfy its own budgetary needs.

Given that McGuinty wants federal cash even though the province's taxation powers are already quite broad, it will be a hypocritical response. However, that response may function to quiet the city's council. With Toronto quieted, McGuinty will be able to continue playing the gap card with Ottawa without Toronto calling him on his hypocrisy.

Paul McKeever is the leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario.
www.freedomparty.on.ca

GAP-OSIS

At Left, Above: from the *Financial Post*, January 6, 2006: Freedom Party's Election'07 plank promising to scrap Ontario's property tax by replacing it with a consumption tax was billed as a 'tax cure' in the *Financial Post's* commentary roundup on the 'State of Cities' in Canada. Fp leader Paul McKeever expands on Freedom Party's position by introducing the syndrome of 'gap-osis' and by stressing that "the most effective way to make a government spend in a responsible way is to ensure that it pays for those expenditures with its own resources."

Below: from the *Toronto Star*, April 23, 2005: Adding a 'gap' in logic to the issue of federal-provincial 'gaps' in transfer payments, columnist Ian Urquhart suggests that Freedom Party is "on the side of (former prime minister) Martin and the federal Liberals," arguing that the "right-leaning Freedom Party ... wants Ottawa to cut taxes instead."

Scoring points in battle of the gap

McGuinty government gains support for fight with Ottawa

Premier Dalton McGuinty appears to have won a war of words with Prime Minister Paul Martin over the "\$23 billion gap" between what Ontario taxpayers send to Ottawa and what they get back in federal programs and services.

Three months ago, McGuinty and the provincial Liberals started out on the gap campaign pretty much on their own. But along the way they have picked up support from an impressive range of sources, including:

The opposition parties, both at Queen's Park and in Ottawa; former premier Bob Rae; a wide array of interest groups in the province, from the university faculty unions to the Toronto Board of Trade; the editorial pages of most newspapers in the province; and such neutral observers as the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

And the polls suggest the general public agrees with McGuinty.

Meanwhile, on the side of Martin and the federal Liberals are: the editorial page of *The Globe and Mail*; the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (which sees the gap as a "sideshow" to help McGuinty avoid keeping his election promises); the right-leaning Freedom Party (which wants Ottawa to cut taxes instead); and some Ottawa-centric columnists.

On such a slender base does not a political party win an election campaign.



Ian Urquhart
At Queen's Park

So, what is the exit strategy for Martin and the federal Liberals on this issue?

Essentially, they have four options:

★ **Wait out the storm.** That is, Martin and his crew can hunker down and hope McGuinty loses steam.

The problem with this scenario is that McGuinty is showing every inclination to stay the course and, indeed, to make the gap an issue in the upcoming federal election campaign.

And why wouldn't he? It beats taking the heat from Ontarians for breaking his own promises.

★ **Capitulate.** This has been Martin's approach to other files, notably the campaign by Newfoundland to have its cake (retention of offshore oil revenues) and eat it, too (no offsetting decrease in equalization payments). Indeed, it was Martin's decision earlier this year to cave into the province's demands that helped to prompt Ontario's gap campaign.

But in the Newfoundland case, Martin had a prior campaign commitment to live up to. He has no such promise to keep on the Ontario gap.

★ **Make mini-deals.** Martin has proposed meeting McGuinty halfway with deals on a range of outstanding issues, including federal subsidies for resettling of immigrants, retraining of workers, complying with the Kyoto accord and enhancing border infrastructure.

McGuinty won't stand in the way of such deals, but their combined value to the Ontario treasury is likely to be far short of the \$5 billion target he has set as a minimum to redress the province's grievances.

★ **Appoint a royal commission.** This is the old-fashioned way for governments to deal with nettlesome problems.

But Martin has resisted it on the ground that a royal commission might somehow become a tool for the separatists in Quebec.

However, the provinces are going ahead with their own plans to establish a panel of pre-eminent Canadians to study the current "fiscal imbalance" that sees Ottawa basking in budget surpluses while the provinces struggle to make ends meet.

The provinces are still wrestling with the composition of the panel, but I have learned the names of two confirmed members: Janice Gross Stein, professor at the University of Toronto and world-renowned expert on conflict management; and Peter Meekison, professor emeritus at the University of Alberta and a former deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs in Alberta.

These are impressive individuals. The report they produce will become the focal point for debate on this issue, whether Martin likes it or not.

If, indeed, he is still Prime Minister by then.

TORONTO

'My goal is to show people that there are other ways government can be run. It's not just about taxing people.' — *Franz Cauchi*, who is running for the Freedom Party of Ontario in a byelection



PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST

Georgina Blanas is the Conservative in Toronto-Danforth while Franz Cauchi, below, represents the Freedom Party of Ontario.

The riding where the toughest job is being right

TORONTO-DANFORTH BYELECTION

BY MATTHEW ROMANADA

It's not easy being right in Toronto-Danforth.

Eight candidates are seeking the riding in next Thursday's provincial byelection, among them several right-of-centre true believers on a quixotic quest: trying to find votes among the latte socialists of Riverdale.

Georgina Blanas, a 35-year-old restaurateur who brims with optimism, is running for the Progressive Conservatives, who managed less than 17% of the vote last time.

Then there is Franz Cauchi, a 37-year-old entrepreneur who is running for the Freedom Party of Ontario.

Mr. Cauchi, whose party advocates eliminating property tax and opening up health care to the free market, knows he won't win, but is hoping for 5% of the vote. He recounted how one woman threw his campaign pamphlet back at him once she read his party's plan to "legalize health care."

"She didn't even allow me to explain the policy and said she had already made up her mind [on who she was voting for]," Mr. Cauchi said.

The NDP has held the Riverdale riding since 1963, which in 1999 became part of Toronto-Danforth during a redistribution. NDP leader Jack Layton repre-



sents the riding federally.

The 2003 provincial election ended with New Democrat Marilyn Churley garnering 47.1% of the vote and the Progressive Conservative candidate, George Sardelis, in third place with 16.9%.

Nelson Wiseman, associate professor of political science at University of Toronto, said he would be shocked if the Tory even finished second. He said the party has to run somebody even if it can't win.

"You have, in almost every riding, some solid party loyalists. So you call on them, 'Look you are doing the service for the party. We recognize you are a sacrificial lamb, you recognize it.'"

Ms. Blanas said for the most part she has been warmly welcomed, but admitted a former MPP, whom she wouldn't name, asked her: "What's a nice girl like you running for the Conservatives?"

Ms. Blanas strongly refutes any claims of being a sacrificial lamb. This is her first time as a candidate, but she has worked on campaigns before, including in 2003 in the riding.

"You give up everything. You give up your job, your business and personal life. But you are doing something important," Ms. Blanas said.

Interestingly, the northern part of the riding is held at the municipal level by Case Ootes, a right-winger by reputation who has managed to build himself a long career in municipal government.

But Mr. Ootes describes himself as a fiscal conservative and a social democrat who supports gay rights and is generally progressive when it comes to social issues. He admitted many people assume someone who is fiscally conservative is also socially conservative.

"Some people think that's the way that I am. It's simply a misunderstanding," Mr. Ootes said.

Mr. Cauchi — who ran in 2003 provincial election in the Davenport riding, receiving 264 votes to finish sixth in a seven-person race — said he decided to run again to get the party's message out.

"My goal is to show people that there are other ways government can be run. It's not just about taxing people. I would like to see people open their eyes to other possibilities," Mr. Cauchi said.

A third right-winger, Wiktor Pawel Borkowski, is running for the Family Coalition Party, a Christian conservative party that "adheres to principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law," according to its Web site. But Mr. Borkowski did not attend Tuesday's all-candidates meeting and did not return phone calls.

Former journalist Ben Chin is running for the Liberals, while Peter Tabuns is the NDP candidate.

National Post

ONTARIO BY-ELECTIONS A SOBERING REMINDER OF VOTER AND MEDIA INERTIA

ONTARIO - March 1 - March 30, 2006 - On March 1, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor General dropped the writ for three Ontario by-elections, each held on Thursday March 30.

Freedom Party fielded a 'full-slate' of candidates in the by-elections: **Franz Cauchi** in the riding of *Toronto-Danforth*, **Jurgen Vollrath** in the riding of *Nepean-Carleton*, and Fp leader **Paul McKeever** in the riding of *Whitby-Ajax*. All three candidates received less than 1% of the vote totals, a result entirely consistent with vote totals of any new political party.

However, thanks to Fp's early launch of its 2007 election platform, the by-elections produced unprecedented media coverage in some major media outlets which have never covered Freedom Party campaigns before, most notably the *National Post* (see reproduction at left) and the *Toronto Star* (reproduction on next page).

Nevertheless, general media resistance to Freedom Party and its candidates is still the main challenge facing us. *TV Ontario's Studio 2*, a critically important source of information for Ontario voters, excluded Fp candidates from its by-election coverage, while the *Ottawa Citizen* did not invite Nepean-Carleton candidate **Jurgen Vollrath** to its editorial board meeting with the candidates.

Nor did the paper print Vollrath's written response to the paper. (See *Openers* by Robert Metz for more details about this issue, and for the complete transcript of Vollrath's response to the *Ottawa Citizen*.)

What makes the media's resistance to Freedom Party particularly curious is that the voting public seems absolutely starved to hear a different voice in the political marketplace.

Referring to his experience with the *Ottawa Citizen* as an example of the 'democratic deficit' faced by voters in his riding, Vollrath notes:

"I used this exclusion as a precursor in my opening statement to the distinguished crowd at the (Cedarview Golf and Country Club all candidates' debate) and for the most part, the invitees were alarmed that the major newspaper in this area could act in this fashion. I drove home the point that we are allowing democracy to slip into a back seat position and the dangers that are presented if this is allowed to continue. I got a standing ovation."

"Many other positives happened during this debate and when it was over, I had more people wearing liberal and conservative pins on their lapels surrounding me than (surrounding) their actual candidates. What a tremendous feeling! Having used 'Frank' and the coincidental analogies that coincide with his existence as our mascot has an amazing effect on people."

Vollrath's experience as a Freedom Party candidate is typical of most Fp candidates during election campaigns. When voters get a chance to actually see and hear Freedom Party candidates in action, their positive response can be overwhelming. Regrettably, voters who attend all candidates' debates, or who even take the time to watch a debate on cablecast, are few and far between. Worse, the media reports

virtually nothing about the polarized performance of Fp's candidates or the audience's reactions. Ignorance prevails.

One can imagine the surprise of Fp leader **Paul McKeever** when he received a phone call from the producer of the *Rogers Cablecast* program *First Local*. After airing the Whitby-Ajax all candidates' debate, McKeever was informed that *First Local's* on line poll showed McKeever's polling at 48%, with PC Christine Elliott at 35%, and Liberal Judi Longfield at 13%.

But that's not what *First Local* reported on its 6pm election eve news coverage. Instead, *First Local* reversed McKeever's and Elliott's totals, declaring Elliott the winner. Subsequent checks of *Rogers'* poll online right after the broadcast confirmed that the results had not changed significantly since McKeever received the call from *First Local's* producer.

Readers can view the entire Whitby-Ajax all candidates' debate by downloading a video file from Freedom Party's website. But there is one thing that viewers will not see: Before the debate was broadcast live, each of the riding candidates was profiled in a pre-recorded video short. But not candidate Paul McKeever. Conservative. Liberal. NDP. Green. -- but no Freedom Party. Yet despite this 'omission', McKeever scored highest on the poll conducted by the broadcaster after the debate.

Toronto-Danforth Fp candidate **Franz Cauchi** did not report any media misrepresentations as serious as our other two candidates, and in fact,

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was the candidate who scored big for media coverage, twice mentioned in the pages of the *National Post* (see page 10 for reproduction of March 23 feature). It is a remarkable media occurrence for a provincial by-election to be given coverage in a national newspaper, let alone with a focus on a new political party candidate.

Despite these advancements, it is understandably disappointing for Fp members and supporters to learn that electoral results for each of our candidates remain so low (under 1%). Why voters would reject Freedom Party's clear, hopeful, and positive vision of 'Lower Taxes and A Better Life' in favor of the dismal and depressing agenda of high taxes and rationing being offered by Liberals, Conservatives, and New Democrats alike, is difficult for many to understand.

Yet, as illustrated by the campaign experience of our by-election candi-

dates (including that of Fp candidate **Wayne Simmons** who was fielded in the November 25, 2005 provincial by-election in *Scarborough-Rouge River*, with similar electoral results), the simple fact is that most voters still have not heard of Freedom Party. For further commentary and insight on electoral prospects, readers are invited to review this issue's *Openers* commentary by Fp president Robert Metz.

For Freedom Party, the recent by-elections were an important step towards our goal of getting Freedom Party better known and recognized by the voting public. That effort does not slow between elections.

We are in the midst of the most ambitious election effort ever undertaken in Freedom Party's history. With four Ontario by-elections under our belt, with a current provincial-wide billboard campaign, and Ontario's next general election expected on October 4, 2007, demands

on party members and supporters are more challenging than ever. Money. Candidates. Organizers. Volunteers. Constituency Associations. All are needed if we are to achieve our objectives.

One more time: Election campaigns require candidates, organizers, and cost money. All the other essentials (leader, platform, strategy, marketing, administration) are already in place. With your support, we can make a big difference to our candidates and workers, both now and in the fall of 2007.

Admiration and congratulations are extended to each of our by-election candidates for their hard work and excellent representation on behalf of Freedom Party: Franz Cauchi, Paul McKeever, Wayne Simmons, and Jurgen Vollrath.

Pioneers for freedom.

{end}

By-elections a gauge for McGuinty

The focus today is on the federal election, but just over the horizon are three provincial by-elections.

The provincial ridings of Toronto-Danforth, Whitby-Ajax and Nepean-Carleton have been vacated by members making the jump to federal politics (respectively, Marilyn Churley, Jim Flaherty and John Baird).

By-elections to fill these vacancies have yet to be called, but candidates are already lining up for the nominations and spirited contests should ensue. The results will tell us something about how the provincial Liberal government under Premier Dalton McGuinty is faring in three very different parts of the province.

Here are thumbnail sketches of each riding:

► Toronto-Danforth:

This east-end Toronto riding has been an NDP stronghold since 1964 and has been represented in the Legislature for the last 15 years by the redoubtable Churley.

Contesting the NDP nomination, which will be decided on Feb. 15, are Peter Tabuns, a former city councillor and former executive director of Greenpeace Canada, and Barbara Warner, a legal aid lawyer and daughter of a former Speaker of the Legislature.

Despite the NDP pedigree of the riding, the Liberals aren't conceding just yet. Expected to carry the Liberal banner into the by-election is Ben Chin, a former high-profile TV journalist now working in McGuinty's office.

The Conservatives approached another personality of the airwaves to be their candidate — Peter Silverman of CITY-TV. But he declined. Their likely candidate is Rouly Antonopoulos, a 35-year-old with an eclectic résumé: he's a clas-



Ian Urquhart

sical guitarist, high-school music teacher, and real estate agent.

► Whitby-Ajax:

This 905 riding has been solidly Conservative since 1995 under Flaherty. But in the 2003 election, the Liberals cut Flaherty's majority by more than half (from 11,388 votes to 4,647).

Running for the Conservative nomination are Ian MacNeil, a banker and the party's 2004 federal candidate, and Dan Carter, host of a popular local TV show.

Another possible candidate — she is being coy about her intentions — is lawyer Christine Elliott, who is also Flaherty's wife. Her candidacy could cause some bad blood among the Conservatives.

Further complicating the picture on the right side of the political spectrum is the expected candidacy of Paul McKeever, leader of the right-wing Freedom Party.

On the Liberal side, local school trustee Elizabeth Roy has already announced her candidacy for the nomination. But bigger names are being mentioned as possible candidates, including incumbent Liberal MP Judi Longfield (if she loses to Flaherty today) and Whitby Mayor Marcel Brunelle.

► Nepean-Carleton:

This suburban Ottawa riding has also been solidly Conservative since 1995 under Baird. He trounced Liberal candidate Rod Vanier, a local lawyer, by almost 11,000 votes in 2003.

The only announced candidate for the Conservative nomination is Lisa MacLeod, a young mother and aide to the local MP. The Conservatives tried to find a more high-profile candidate and, among others, approached Catherine Clark, daughter of former prime minister Joe Clark and host of a local TV show. But she declined.

For their part, the Liberals have approached the former Ottawa police chief, Brian Ford, to run in the riding. "I'm not going to deny it," Ford told the Ottawa Sun this week. "You already know it's true."

It's tough for a governing party to win a by-election, where voters can register a protest by backing the opposition without worrying about overturning the government. In normal times, then, all three of these would remain opposition ridings — NDP in Toronto-Danforth and the other two Conservative.

But these are not normal times. If Stephen Harper and the federal Conservatives win today and then stub their toes in their first months in office, that could give a boost to the provincial Liberals in the by-elections. On the other hand, if Harper has an extended honeymoon, that would help the provincial Conservatives.

Ian Urquhart writes on provincial affairs. His column appears Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. iurquha@thestar.ca.

At Left: - from the Toronto Star, January 23, 2006. Columnist Ian Urquhart reveals Freedom Party plans to field by-election candidate and Fp party leader Paul McKeever, long before election was called.

CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

Every Candidate Needs One!

- Carol Vandenberg

(Carol Vandenberg is an executive member of the Freedom Party of Ontario, as well as being on the board of London West's Freedom Party Constituency Association (CA).)

Suppose that a snap by-election has been called in 3 ridings in Ontario. The writ has been dropped, the candidates have 16 days to register and collect their signatures. Each candidate needs 25 signatures of eligible voters from their riding. They need to pay their deposit. Now they have only 14 days to campaign, print flyers, deliver flyers, arrange advertising, print and put up election signs. Then, it is the election-day and that's it. Thirty days and it's over.

Sound like an impossible task? That's exactly what happened in the last three Ontario by-elections.

It is close to impossible for a lone Freedom Party candidate to do all that is necessary in the small time allotted. Well, "so what?" you say, "that's what Headquarters is for..." Well, did you know that by-elections are rarely called at the convenience of the opposition parties? Odds are, headquarters will be busy with 'real-time reporting' or sending out income tax-receipts, or some such essential but desperately boring task. Sure, they'll make sure the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed for the candidates' registration forms and if the money flow is good at that time, they might help publish the candidate's literature and signs, but HQ is in London and the by-elections is in Ottawa or even Wawa. Who's going to help deliver those flyers? Who's going to pound those signs into the permafrost?

CA members! That's who!

A **Constituency Association's** job during an election campaign is to **support the candidate**. CA members show up and cheer their candidate on at all-candidate debates. They will pound in the signs and put them back up when they're knocked down. They'll deliver or hand out the flyers. They'll collect the donations. They will make sure their candidate is prepared for the debate, get there on time and have their Frank button on right side up! They will be there when the results come in.

But Constituency Associations do not appear out of nowhere; they do not appear the day the writ is dropped nor



do they disappear after election-day is over. A CA takes time and elections are about deadlines. A CA can only work effectively once a group of dedicated members have worked together for at least a year. A new CA's first priority is to establish their presence and recruit more members, because it is from this membership that they can nominate and elect their candidates. It is from this membership they can collect donations and create an election fund, the money with which they can produce flyers, signs, and advertising. The bigger the membership is, the more likely the best face for Freedom can be found.

Besides money and membership, a CA's job is one of action and education. It is their job to help bring Freedom Party of Ontario's platform to the people in their riding. Sure, HQ has the *Freedom Flyer*, *Consent Magazine*, and those fabulous dinners, but there are many other things a CA can do, writing letters to the editor being one. Come on, you've seen them... the same people seem to always get their letters printed, over and over. Do you think they're just irate individuals? No, some are just party loyalists showing their support. We have to make Freedom Party an everyday word, not an occasional novelty!

Counter protests are another way CA's can put the message out there. "Oh look, farmers are blocking the roads again and what do they want? More subsidies!"

"Farmers feed cities", we're told. Well I say "Farmers bleed cities" by lobbying for subsidies. A well organized CA can pull off a campaign to demonstrate how farmers would really be able to "feed cities" --- if they didn't have to pay income tax, property tax, and weren't forced to farm by government edict.

Of course, a Constituency Association's actions are not limited to what I've talked about here. Freedom Party of Ontario has provided the blueprint for its CA's but it's up to you, the members, to get up off your... well you know what I'm talking about ...and get to it! A Freedom Party of Ontario CA is an ongoing organization dedicated to Recruitment, Action, and Education of the Freedom Party of Ontario's platform and principles. Freedom Party of Ontario's CA's are frontline Freedom Fighters!

Now go! Start a revolution! Register your CA today!

Contact Carol Vandenberg or Robert Metz at:

cvandenberg@freedomparty.on.ca

or rmetz@freedomparty.on.ca

(OPENERS ...cont'd from pg 3)

It's a good thing I didn't take him up on his offer. After running (up to that point) the most expensive riding election campaign ever held in Ontario, he lost his seat to Liberal Joan Smith, and the Progressive Conservatives sank into near oblivion until Mike Harris briefly charmed voters with his mild dose of 'common sense.'

Today, Ontario - and its three 'electable' parties - continue drifting left into the socialist seas of record-setting deficit financing, bloated government bureaucracies and whopping tax rates, all accompanied by cut-backs and rationing of just about any service offered by government. The trend that existed in 1984 when Freedom Party was founded, continues unabated to this very day, regardless of which socialist party has ruled the province: Liberal, Progressive Conservative, or NDP.

So if you just want to 'get elected' in this political climate, be my guest and go join one of those parties. But don't have any expectations about being able to change anything for the better. Not only is freedom not on their agenda, freedom is the very thing that collectivist parties fear the most. In fact, no matter how well intentioned one might be, by joining or supporting any of those parties, one will have participated in the destruction of freedom and contributed to the continued decline of Ontario's standard of living. There is no middle ground here. It's black and white. I have witnessed first hand how quickly a well-intentioned freedom oriented candidate must abandon any principle of freedom when working with any of the other parties. It's unavoidable and inevitable. The ONLY way to put freedom on the political agenda is to financially support and vote for Freedom Party - a party of principle.

Here's why: Consider the options:

Liberals don't believe in anything and Liberals believe in everything. With broken promises littering their yellow fib road to power, the Liberal Party is proof that you *can* fool most of the people --- at least long enough to get them to put their 'x' on the ballot. After that, who knows? Any bad thing could happen - and always does.

"The ONLY way to put freedom on the political agenda is to financially support and vote for Freedom Party - a party of principle."

Then there's the pitiful so-called 'conservatives'. *Progressive* Conservatives, they say. *Socialist* conservatives, I say. Because that's what they are. Theirs is the party that introduced income tax to Ontario. Theirs is the party that created Ontario's health care monopoly and banned private health care. *Progressive* Conservatives gave us rent controls, phoney Human Rights codes, monopolized Ontario Hydro, etc., --- all under the guise of being a 'conservative' party supposedly interested in protecting private property, free markets and capitalism.

Conservatives have become freedom's worst enemies, because they practise socialism in the name of freedom. Freedom is the very thing that they restrict and destroy to achieve their political ends. On every count, *Progressive* Conservatives support the philosophies and objectives of the Liberals and New Democrats and oppose every principle that Freedom

Party stands for. They give freedom and capitalism a bad name, and make our job all the harder.

Then there's the New Democrats, whose tyrannical belief in the tyranny of majority rule has also become the standard of the other two parties as well. That's their 'new democracy' --- the old mob rule presented as political recipe. Tyranny is not democracy, even if a majority supports it. New Democrats? Who needs them when we have Liberals and Conservatives?

Make no mistake! All three parties are vehemently opposed to each and every plank in Freedom Party's 2007 Election Platform, the *Right Direction*.

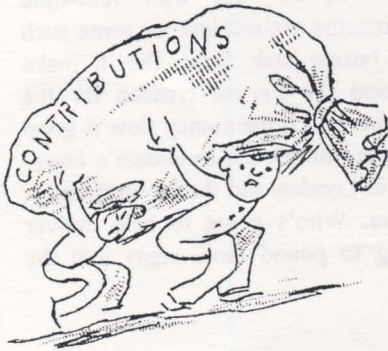
So guess what? For anybody even remotely concerned with freedom at all, supporting Liberals, Conservatives or New Democrats simply isn't an option. Unlike all the other 'isms' in the political world, freedom is not an 'ism' nor is it an ideology. It is the condition in which human beings must live --- if they are to be human beings.

To achieve this condition, there's only one political choice in Ontario -- - Freedom Party, a party that actually cares about freedom!

Which brings me back to politics and the secret of getting elected, so please allow me to be really blunt about this (I know most of you don't like to hear this):

The vast majority of voters know nothing about anything I've discussed

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in this article. Not only do they know nothing about Freedom Party, they know nothing about the philosophies or platforms of the parties that they DO vote for. They know nothing about their own candidates.

It's important to understand this. Ask the average Liberal, Conservative, or NDP voter what the party they voted for *explicitly stands for* and they will not know! They *cannot* know because their parties themselves do not know what they stand for --- until voters tell them what they stand for. That's why polls, not principles, are what form the policies of the other parties and why they are all so much alike. It's a vicious circle from which they cannot escape. The other parties *follow*; they do not, and cannot, *lead*.

Worse, not only do most voters not know anything about the parties they vote for, they know nothing about the nature of government --- or of the voting process itself. Their scant attention to politics, if any at all, is comprised of the few moments every four or five years that they spend in a voting booth. Is it surprising at all that the vast majority still have never heard of Freedom Party?

Does any of this scare you? It should.

In their political vacuum, most voters are not only unwittingly destroying their own well being, but the well being, freedom and security even of those few who DO understand freedom and government, like you and me. It is simply the nature of our increasingly undemocratic majority rule system that the vast majority will ALWAYS remain uninformed. Uninformed action is always destructive.

This is not cynicism talking, and the purpose of my making you aware of this reality is not to depress you, but

to offer hope. Remember, I used to be one of the vast majority that I just described and I was eventually able to think and act for myself. If I can do it, anybody can.

So what of Freedom Party?

First, it is important to recognize that Freedom Party is not for everybody and does not pretend to be. People interested in getting something for nothing will not find a home in Freedom Party. People who want politicians to 'protect' them from labor or business competition will not find a home in Freedom Party. Racists are not welcome. Censorship advocates and others who demonstrate intolerance of peaceful behavior are not welcome. Freedom Party is not a fear-oriented party.

Second, it is only by choosing to become part of an informed independent minority that one can ultimately command majorities. All parties are run by tiny minorities.

Third, voters are not informed and do not understand the nature of the parties and candidates they currently support. The irony of this is that the people who are voting for parties they really know nothing about will also vote for a new party like Freedom Party --- when their faith (which is all they have, in the absence of understanding) in the parties they usually support is weakened or destroyed. That's how Bob Rae's NDP won an election by default --- when enough voters held their noses and refused to vote for the Liberals and Conningervatives.

Will uninformed and indifferent voters ever get fed up enough with the three socialist parties to try a new, and different option, like Freedom Party? Yes --- if they know we exist. Yes --- If we have a voice that can be heard.

Will this happen in 2007? 2011? 2015? I have no way of predicting an unpredictable future. But Ontario's three recent by elections may offer a clue.

Although media breakthroughs were made (see the rest of this newsletter), most of the media either ignored Freedom Party's candidates, actively evaded them, or outright misrepresented them.

Take, for example, Rogers Cable in the riding of Whitby-Ajax where Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever clearly made an impression. (You can view a video of this debate on Freedom Party website.)

After the debate, Rogers polled its viewers on line: McKeever came out on top, polling as high as 48%. This was documented and confirmed by the cable broadcaster. Yet, in their news coverage of the debate and the poll results, Rogers' newscasters falsely reported, on the eve of the election, that McKeever came in second, after PC candidate Christine Elliott (the wife of Jim Flaherty).

"It is important to recognize that Freedom Party is not for everybody and does not pretend to be. Freedom Party is not a fear-oriented party."

Meanwhile, TVO's Studio 2 (the most influential media source for Ontario voters) critically damaged Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever's campaign by eliminating him from their coverage and by putting a sexist spin on the byelection. Host Steve Paikin (who *did* interview McKeever

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in the last general election - see video clips on line) characterized the by-election as a three-way, all woman race, outrageously excluding all four male candidates from the debate!!!!

And in the riding of Nepean-Carleton, Fp candidate **Jurgen Vollrath** was excluded from the *Ottawa Citizen's* editorial board meeting with the candidates. In a follow-up letter to the editor which was never published, Vollrath wrote:

"As the Freedom Party candidate for the upcoming by-election in Nepean Carleton, I should have been contacted to voice an opinion. Your newspaper has contributed to the growing democratic deficit where people are moving away from the polls as the political process is constantly undermined by such arrogant refusal to acknowledge all the voices, however small, that pick up the gauntlet and strive to make a positive difference in our society. Our city and our country deserves better. Shame on you."

With media coverage like this, is it any wonder that voters vote the way

they do?

To speak for the voter himself, I leave you with the heart wrenching comments of 'Ken', a voter and resident of Whitby-Ajax who wrote to Fp leader Paul McKeever after he had already cast his ballot for another candidate:

"I have to say you totally impressed me with everything you had to say at the debate. I think the other party representatives fell way short of coming off knowledgeable, compared to you. I have to admit, before I watched the debate, I didn't know you existed. From the issues of Property Taxes to your answer to the lady from China, you are right on the money. I have been looking forward to a change in government, since the Gomery Inquiry came to light, with all the corruption in the Liberal Party. I voted Conservative, hoping my vote would count. It did. Unfortunately, for this local election, to replace Jim Flaherty I voted last weekend at the advance polling station at the Whitby Mall. So yes, you guessed it, I voted Conservative. Christine isn't who I would like to have representing me, but she is the Conservative rep, so she got my vote.

I am now wishing I hadn't voted early, because I have done my-

self a wrong, and you.

After watching the debate, I am now wishing you were the Conservative member. I just want to apologize for not knowing who you were and what you stood for before making my vote."

Next election, Ken, and others like him, will likely vote for Freedom Party. His understanding that he has done both himself and Freedom Party 'a wrong' is an epiphany still awaiting most Ontario voters.

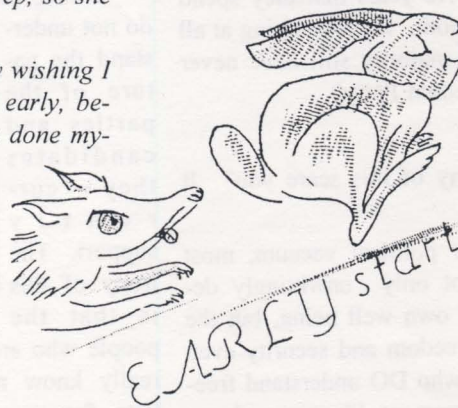
It's our job --- yours and mine --- to speed this process by continuing to do what we have set out to do and to never stray from our path.

If you want to live in a free society, you are currently in a minority. That chilling fact alone stops most people cold.

So get over it. Take action. Do the right thing.

Before we realize it, and after many years of hard work, we're sure to become an overnight success.

Ken is counting on us. {end}



FREEDOM FLYER

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FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

Freedom Party of Ontario is a fully-registered Ontario political party. Contributions are tax-creditable for Ontario residents. **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. **Membership:** Basic: \$10 per year; **Provincial Executive:** President & CFO: Robert Metz; Vice-president: William Frampton; **Executive Officers:** Paul Blair, Paul McKeever, Gordon Mood, Wayne Simmons, Carol Vandenberg; **Party Leader:** Paul McKeever.

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