

The Right Direction



Freedom Party of Canada

Federal Election 2008

Election Platform



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Fellow Canadians,

Freedom Party is too new to run a full slate of candidates in the expected spring election of 2004: our sights are set on the election after that one, which is expected to be called in 2008. However, there is no time to waste: Canadian freedom, democracy, and solvency are dwindling. The time to build and organize for election 2008 is *now*.

Freedom Party is Canada's only *capitalist* political party. By "capitalist", we mean that we advocate a responsible, ethical and gradual return to the separation of economics and state. Put in a way the economists would understand it: we believe that Keynes was wrong and von Mises was right. Put in a way the philosophers would understand it: we believe that Hegel was wrong and Rand was right. Put in a way that marketing board, CRTC, and other bureaucrats will understand it: it may be time to blow the dust off of that resume.

Our defence of individual freedom and personal responsibility extends, with equal commitment, to social issues. We believe that you, *and only you*, own your body: a Freedom Party government will never put you in jail or fine you for growing or smoking Marijuana, for selling herbs and vitamins, for having an abortion, for making it possible for others to have a child, or for making discoveries that will revolutionize human health. We do not think that government should define "marriage" at all, or tell you who you can marry.

I firmly believe that the greatness of a society is determined not by its government's tendency to divide a single loaf of bread evenly, but by the efforts of its members to produce enough loaves for everyone. Individual choice, personal responsibility, dignity, prosperity and justice. That is Freedom Party's vision for Canada. Make it yours: support Freedom Party.

Sincerely,

Paul McKeever

The Right Direction

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GOVERNMENT REVENUES

Accountability: Ending Hide 'n Seek Subsidies

Separating
subsidies from
taxation

For far, far too long, governments have tried to *hide* handouts by giving them in the form of tax breaks. The result: it becomes almost impossible to determine how much wealth is being taken from some and given to others. **If a government is going to subsidize someone** (i.e., to give an individual or a corporation “welfare”), it must be held accountable: **it should make a direct payment to the recipient, not give them a tax exemption, a tax deduction, a tax credit, or a tax rebate.** That way, at the end of the year, it will become a relatively simple matter to find out just how much government has been playing Robbin’ Hood. Also, because some persons collect more than one subsidy in the form of tax breaks every year, the Freedom Party approach (i.e., cutting a cheque instead of giving a tax break) will make it much less difficult to total up the subsidies received by each recipient.



Tax Me Once, Shame on You Tax Me Twice, “Fuddle-Duddle”

Eliminating
surtaxes

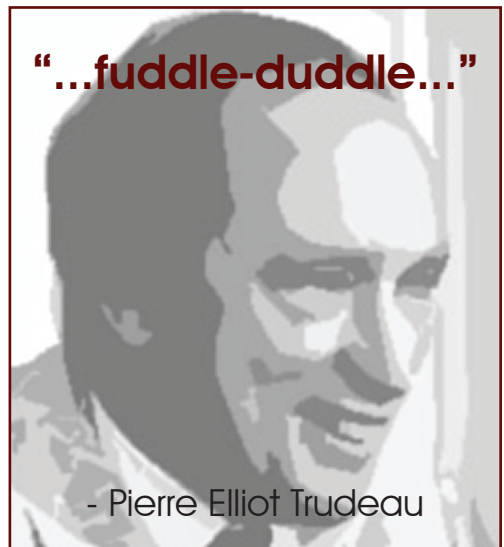
Surtaxes

A person should never have to pay a tax on a tax (i.e., a surtax). The very notion is not only absurd but unfair: a tax should apply to all, or to none. **A Freedom Party government will eliminate all surtaxes.**

Eliminating
general *and*
special capital
taxes

Capital Taxes

A corporation should not pay a tax simply for owning property. Yet the government makes them do just that. A “capital tax” is imposed on businesses *whether or not they make a profit*: it is a tax on property, not on income or spending. The current government knows that the capital tax requires those corporations to raise the cost of their goods and services: the government knows that, in effect, this is a *hidden*



sales tax. **A Freedom Party government will eliminate the general and special capital taxes:** all Canadians are being ripped off by these hidden taxes.

Further Reading:

"Budget Priority One: Eliminate Capital Taxes" by Jason Clemens and Niels Veldhuis
<http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/shared/readmore1.asp?sNav=ed&id=141>

The Capital Gains Tax

Government ought never to tax an increase in the value of the things that we purchase and later sell. We pay tax on the income used to purchase those things in the first place. When we sell them to someone else, that person - like us - buys them with after-tax dollars. It is wrong for government to double-dip by also taxing the money earned when selling ones property for more than one paid to buy it. Government should not, and need not, be so greedy.

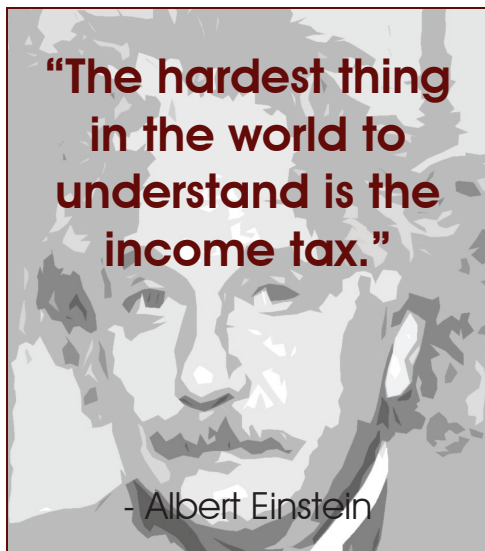
The capital gains tax is of questionable utility in raising revenue, is unfair, and interferes with sound decision-making in respect of the purchase and sale of capital. **A Freedom Party government will eliminate the taxation of capital gains.**

Further Reading:

"Unlocking Canadian Capital: The Case for Capital Gains Tax Reform" by Herb Grubel
http://oldfraser.lexi.net/publications/books/capital_gains/

Reducing Taxes on Income Before Taxes on Sales

The *Income Tax Act* of Canada is arguably the most complex piece of legislation in the country. Most Canadians will never understand it.



"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

- Albert Einstein

Accounting for ones revenues, expenses and income costs Canadians millions of hours and billions of dollars every year, just so that they can fill out tax returns. There even exist good legal arguments that the federal income tax is unconstitutional.

Consider this: you cannot eat or drink money. It doesn't make a good shelter, and you cannot drive it. Bank of Canada notes are not (yet) a cost-efficient heating fuel. A person who

earns a trillion dollars may live in hunger on the street if he does not *spend* his money. The *earning* of money does not allow you to survive and thrive: the *spending* of it does. The money you earn will be spent, and it is already the case that, when it is spent, it is taxed by sales taxes. Earnings that are *not* taxed generally result in sales that *are* taxed.

Even a drug-dealer and a white-collar criminal pays sales tax on a candy bar. Everyone pays the *same* sales tax for the same good or service. Sales tax rates are the same for everyone. Sales taxes do not punish you with higher rates when you work a bit of overtime to pay off your debts and honour your responsibilities. Sales taxes do not discriminate. Best of all, you can pay sales taxes without filing a tax return: more convenience, more privacy.

The Canadian tax burden must be reduced, but **a Freedom Party government will make *income tax* reductions before making reductions to taxes on spending** (e.g., before reducing sales taxes).

Reducing
income taxes
before reducing
sales taxes

Ending the Progressive Tax Gouge

Many people would like to earn more money to pay off debts, to save for retirement, to purchase a house, or to put their children through college or university. However, under the current "progressive" taxation system, many individuals are discouraged from making the extra money they need to accomplish their goals. When you make extra money, the "progressive" income tax gouges you by taxing the extra money at a higher *percentage*. Paying off your debts and putting your kids through college or university is hard enough. The Progressive Tax Gouge just makes it all the more difficult.

In a "single rate" tax system, every individual pays the same *percentage* of his earnings to the government. That way, those who earn more dollars pay more tax dollars to the government. For example, at a single

"The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie..in the most advanced countries, the following [methods] will be pretty generally applicable...2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax."

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels,
The Communist Manifesto

"Mr. Speaker, we are for progressive taxation."

- now Conservative Party MP Jason Kenney,
Hansard, March 3, 1999

"We believe in progressive taxation. That is our position."

- now Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin,
Hansard, March 10, 1999

"We in the NDP are committed to tax reform that is both fair and progressive. It certainly goes to the root of our party's philosophy and vision."

- NDP MP Libby Davies,
Hansard, March 4, 1999



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rate of 17%, the person who earns \$10,000 pays \$1,700, and the person who earns \$100,000 pays \$17,000.

Single-rate taxes are already widely used in Canada. For example, the GST is a single-rate tax. Provincial sales taxes are single-rate taxes.

A Freedom Party government will do away with the Progressive Tax Gouge. If income must be taxed, all Canadians should be taxed at the same, single rate. It's only fair.

Borrowing by Government

Deficit spending (i.e., borrowing by government) allows Canadian governments today to buy the votes of *today's* Canadians by spending the earnings of *tomorrow's* Canadians. It is wrong for a generation to leave a debt for those who have not yet been born, except if *necessary* in the defence of Canada: when money must be borrowed today to defend freedom, it is not inappropriate for the debt to be repaid by all generations who benefit from the freedom that results. **A Freedom Party government will introduce legislation that disallows borrowing by the federal government and its agencies, except to fund the Canadian military when Canada is formally at war.**

INFLATION & THE STANDARD OF LIVING

A Simplified Explanation of the Problem

"Credit" is an IOU issued by a bank: a promise to pay a certain number of dollars in the form of Bank of Canada notes (i.e., "cash") to whoever holds the credit. Your bank account balance is simply a statement indicating how much credit you hold.

Credit is money because virtually anything that you can buy with cash can be bought, instead, with credit. When you buy something with a cheque, a debit card or a credit card, you are paying with credit.

Banks do not lend out cash. Instead, when someone wants to borrow money, the banks *create* the money in the form of *credit*, and lend the credit out to the borrower, who must pay interest for the privilege.

Since 1991's changes to the *Bank Act* took effect (in 1993), there has been no legal limit on the number of Canadian dollars a bank may



Replacing progressive rates of income tax with a single rate

Prohibiting borrowing by government & agencies; war the exception





create in the form of credit (specifically, there has been no “reserve requirement”). Today, over 95% of Canadian dollars (over 700 billion dollars) are in the form of credit that has been created and is owned by Canada’s financial institutions (e.g., CIBC, Bank of Nova Scotia, TD, Royal Bank, etc.). Banks charge interest on virtually all of it.

When a person successfully forges Bank of Canada notes and spends the forgeries into the economy, the supply of dollars is increased. Counterfeiting is a crime because the counterfeiter, by making dollars for himself, steals a *percentage* of the money supply (a supply that then includes the forgeries he created). When a bank creates credit, the effect is the same: the bank, by creating additional dollars for itself, increases the percentage of the money supply it owns (yes, it owns the credit that it creates and lends to borrowers). Whether by forgery or by the issuance of credit that functions as money, expansion of the supply of dollars transfers buying power from the wages and savings of all Canadians to the person who increases the supply of dollars.

When economies grow and the supply of dollars is not changed, prices generally fall. When prices decrease, a dollar of earnings buys more: the Canadian standard of living improves. However, when the number of dollars is *increased*, the buying power of each dollar is *decreased*, such that more dollars are required to buy the same item. Therefore, by increasing the supply of dollars while the economy grows, prices can be made to remain unchanged. And, if more than enough extra dollars are created than are needed to prevent prices from falling, prices will actually increase.

The current monetary policy of the government’s bank (i.e., the Bank of Canada) is actually to *prevent* prices from decreasing. It does this by lowering interest rates, which encourages people to borrow credit from chartered banks: credit that is created by the banks when people come to borrow money. All of the extra borrowing causes an increase in the number of Canadian dollars. By increasing the number of dollars, the buying power of each dollar is reduced and prices end up rising when they should be falling. The winner is banks, who end up owning and lending out more dollars, and thereby increasing the percentage of the money supply that they collect interest upon. The loser is all Canadians, whose standard of living currently decreases by about 30% per decade if they do not get regular raises that are large enough to offset the devaluation of their wages.

There is no sound moral or economic reason for changing the supply of Canadian dollars. It is wrong for banks to transfer Canadian buying

“Every single fluctuation in general business conditions—the upswing to the peak of the wave and the decline into the trough which follows—is prompted by the attempt of the banks of issue to reduce the loan rate and thus expand the volume of circulation credit through an increase in the supply of fiduciary media (i.e., banknotes and checking accounts not fully backed by money).”

- Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises
“Monetary Stabilization and Cyclical Policy”
in *On the Manipulation of Money and Credit*

power to themselves just as it is wrong for counterfeiters to do so. Expanding the money supply causes a transfer of wealth (i.e., theft) no matter who does it, and no matter whether the additional dollars come in the form of real or forged Bank of Canada notes, or in the form of private bank credit. It also exacerbates, rather than controls, the business cycle.

Fixing the Problem

Without preventing banks from borrowing and lending the

existing supply of Canadian dollars, **a Freedom Party government will legally prohibit any change in the number of Canadian dollars:** it will introduce a 100% reserve requirement, and prohibit the Bank of Canada from changing the number of Canadian dollars. On a dollar-for-dollar basis, **it will replace with currency all credit that currently functions as money** (see Fisher and Friedman, below): doing so will change the form, but not the number, of Canadian dollars.

In a society that is moving away from the use of paper and coin tokens, the 100% reserve requirement will eliminate the risk of hyper-inflation that may result from the elimination of depositor demands for paper and coin. The currency-for-credit swap will have other positive effects. Much government debt will be cancelled, because debts that were formerly owed by the Crown to credit-issuing financial institutions will instead be owed to the Bank of Canada, which is ultimately owned by the Crown: a debt owed, in reality, to oneself is not a debt. Also, unlike today, chartered banks will actually have, or have a right to, every Bank of Canada dollar they owe to their depositors: the risk of a run on the banks will be eliminated. Finally, and most importantly, these changes will allow the Canadian standard of living to improve by allowing the buying power of wages and savings to increase while the Canadian economy is growing.

Further Reading:

“100% Money” by Irving Fisher

“A Program for Monetary Stability”,

Chapter 3: Debt Management and Banking Reform, by Milton Friedman



Fixing the supply of dollars; ending bank credit's status as a form of Canadian money





TAKE THE MONEY & RUN

The Canada Pension Plan

The Canada Pension plan was set up in 1966 as an inter-generational plan: the idea was to have those who are working pay some of their income to those who are retired. It was not, in reality, set up as a plan in which a portion of a person's earnings were invested for them for future use. In short, it was set up as a welfare plan, not as an investment plan. When, in the past, contributions to the plan were greater than was needed to pay retired persons, governments abused the system: instead of returning the surplus contributions to those who paid them, surplus contributions were used for such things as providing cheap loans to the provinces.

It eventually was noticed that a population bulge of "baby-boomers" was to retire while the number of workers decreased dramatically. To help finance the baby-boom, the federal government has taken an increasingly-large bite out of Canadian wages. It currently stands at about 5% for employed persons, and 10% for self-employed persons.

Retirement revenue should result from saving, lending and investing in capital, rather than from inter-generational wealth redistribution. **A Freedom Party government will end compulsory contributions to the Canada Pension Plan** in a way that will compensate Canadians for their prior contributions to the Canada Pension Plan.

Employment Insurance

It is wrong for a government to force Canadians to buy employment insurance, and then add the excess employment insurance premiums paid by some Canadians to the general revenues spent, by government, on all Canadians. Insurance premiums are not tax revenues. A Freedom Party government will amend the *Employment Insurance Act* to require excess premiums either to be returned to the persons who **paid** them or to be used to pay future premiums for those persons, and to prohibit the adding of excess premiums to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Further Reading:

"Quebec EI Case Advances Alberta Agenda" by Sylvia LeRoy
<http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/shared/readmore1.asp?sNav=ed&id=255>

Ending
compulsory CPP
contributions
responsibly

EI surpluses for
the benefit only
of those who
pay premiums



CORPORATE WELFARE

Subsidies, Monopolies & Protectionism

1

Subsidies to Business

On April 16, 1998, the Canadian Taxpayer's Federation released a study of sixteen years of financial assistance authorized by Industry Canada to individuals, other levels of government and corporations. They found over 11 billion dollars of assistance had been authorized over 16 years through 32,969 separate grants, contributions, loans, interest contributions and loan guarantees. Over 18% of the \$11 billion (\$2.1 billion) was authorized through various forms of assistance to only *five* companies (\$949 million to Quebec-based Pratt & Whitney alone). The government argues that such corporate welfare creates or maintains jobs, yet workers at recipient companies have been laid off. The government argues that these are just "investments" and that they will get the money back. Yet the Canadian Taxpayers Federation found that "a mere 8% of \$2.6 billion lent out to recipients through the now-defunct Defence Industry Productivity Program (DIPP) [a predecessor to Technology Partnerships Canada] has been repaid".

If a person in Canada does not want to invest in a company, the government should not tax the money out of her pocket and then hand it over to the private company that she didn't want to finance. Government should not be financing private businesses with tax dollars or borrowed funds. Period.

By giving federal financing to some companies (who are perhaps better connected, politically) and not to others, the federal government creates an unfair playing field for business in Canada. Competition is undermined. Potentially weak companies get a shield that prevents stronger, but smaller or less politically-connected companies from taking the lead. If Canada is to attract new, strong companies, it must not play favourites.

Government ought never to succumb to threats and warnings, from private companies, that there may be lay-offs or closures if government assistance isn't forked over: truly failing companies will always be succeeded by truly strong ones. So that those strong companies do business in Canada, the focus should be on reducing the penalties and unfairness associated with the choice of doing business in Canada, not on having Canadians ultimately pay the wages of employees in private companies (i.e., not on workfare).



The bottom line: **a Freedom Party government will immediately discontinue the financing of private businesses of all sizes, and will close down the federal departments and agencies that exist only to facilitate government financing of private businesses.**

Further Reading:

Peeling Back the Onion: A Taxpayers Audit of Technology Partnerships Canada
http://www.taxpayer.com/studies/federal/TPC_Audit_2002.pdf

ACOA: The Lost Decade
<http://www.taxpayer.com/ACOA.pdf>

WED: Wasted Effort and Dollars
<http://www.taxpayer.com/studies/federal/WED-Study.pdf>

Mercantilism

If a public or private consumer in another country wants to buy goods and services from a company based in Canada, that's great. If the federal government and its departments or agencies help out with loans, grants, loan guarantees, loan forgiveness, insurance etc., that is dead wrong, and not in the interest of Canada or Canadians.

By getting Canada and Canadians involved financially in such activities as mining and dam-building in other countries, Canada's foreign policy can become undermined. For example, when mining efforts financed in part by Canada cause poisoning of fresh water sources, the inhabitants and governments of other countries have every right to blame Canada. When unwise dam building efforts threaten to bury old civilizations, induce earthquakes, or displace the citizens of another country against their will, Canadian funding of such dam-building efforts makes us blameworthy.

Moreover, by providing financing to bad credit risks in other countries, we are really just providing grants of Canadian taxpayer money to foreign entities and, ultimately, to the Canada-based companies who sell their goods or services to those entities. In other words, "export development" is largely just another way of doling out corporate welfare to Canada-based companies.

A Freedom Party government will immediately discontinue the financing of those who consume the goods or services of Canadian companies. It will, in turn, close down the departments and agencies that exist only to facilitate such mercantilism, starting with Export Development Canada.



Further Reading:

"Patronage Canada" by Patricia Adams

<http://www.probeinternational.org/pi/edc/index.cfm?DSP=content&ContentID=768>

"The New Mercantilists" by Patricia Adams

<http://www.probeinternational.org/pi/edc/index.cfm?DSP=content&ContentID=1292>

Projects Supported by EDC (2000-)

<http://www.probeinternational.org/pi/documents/edc/edclist200x.pdf>

Projects Supported by EDC (1995-1999)

<http://www.probeinternational.org/pi/documents/edc/edclist1995-99.pdf>

Projects Supported by EDC (1990-1994)

<http://www.probeinternational.org/pi/documents/edc/edclist1990-94.pdf>

Foreign Content Restrictions

Canadians ought not to be discouraged from the financial security and improved returns that are gained from the freedom to properly diversify their retirement investments (e.g., in their RRSPs). The purpose of a retirement plan is to allow Canadians to retire in comfort. The current practice of protecting Canadian-based companies from competition by imposing foreign content restrictions in retirement plans is contrary to the financial interests of those who are saving for their retirement: the content restrictions take earned security away from Canadians' retirement years in order to give unearned security to Canadian-based companies now. The trade-off is a rip-off. **A Freedom Party government will eliminate foreign content restrictions immediately and minimize the damage they are causing to the financial security of Canadians' retirement years.**

Government-imposed Monopolies

It is illegal to compete with a monopoly set up by government. In contrast, it is perfectly legal to compete with a company that has managed to eliminate its other competition with lower prices and sufficient product desirability (i.e., to compete with a "natural monopoly"). Whereas a business that has gained a natural monopoly must continue to satisfy customers sufficiently to maintain its monopoly in a financially rewarding way, a business that is granted a monopoly by government need not satisfy anyone to maintain its monopoly: law prohibits competition with monopolies set up by government.

A huge price-control and industry-control bureaucracy is no substitute for competition in a free market. A government that wants to subsidize such things as expensive flight routes must not undermine the

Eliminating
foreign content
restrictions

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benefits of competition to do so: it should make a direct, clear and accountable payment to the subsidy recipient (see "Accountability: Ending Hide 'n Seek Subsidies", on page 1). **A Freedom Party government will eliminate Canada's archaic government-imposed monopolies** (e.g., prohibitions against competition from non-"Canadian" airlines on "Canadian routes") **to improve the quality, and lower the cost, of goods and services sold to Canadians.**

Can-con, Direct TV, Al-Jazeera and Don Cherry

Individuals - even those who happen to be communicating from outside of Canada - must be free to express or not express themselves in a peaceful manner in Canada without legal consequences. The decision to broadcast or not broadcast content should lay only with the broadcaster, which will lose customers if it does not choose content that watchers and listeners want to see or hear. Alanis Morissette and Mike Myers do not owe their success to CRTC policy: independently of government, they have the ability to provide what many people want to hear, see and buy. Watchers and listeners - not bureaucrats in the CRTC - must be free to decide what they want to see and hear: each of them has an off switch that is far more powerful (and certainly more cost-efficient) than a CRTC staffer.

There is no justification for the government stealing satellite dishes from Canadians who pay for satellite services from legitimate providers

in other countries. It is absolutely authoritarian to criminalize the watching of TV channels that are not somehow marked with the governments seal of approval. Such naked acts of protectionism not only offend Canadian freedom: they portray Canada as desperate, pathetic and corrupt, and they eventually render it so.

"...[broadcasters of Stern's show] may face losing their licences for failing to meet Canadian content rules."

- Michael Harris, **Toronto Sun**, November 18, 1997.

"A campaign by a couple of Jewish lobby groups to [have the CRTC] keep Al-Jazeera out of Canada... seems to be succeeding"

- Antonia Zerbisias, **Toronto Star**, March 23, 2004.

"Last week, RCMP in Ottawa seized \$50,000 worth of [U.S.] satellite equipment, and 12 people were recently arrested in Rigaud, Quebec for illegally selling [U.S.] satellite equipment..."

- Joel Baglole, **Toronto Star**, December 3, 1998.

"...[Bill C-2] introduces harsh new penalties for those caught selling or using illegal satellite dishes to get foreign signals such as HBO, Fox News and Al Jazeera, was introduced...The bill allows for almost police state tactics. One clause says that inspectors can "enter any place" they suspect of holding illegal satellite equipment."

- Antonia Zerbisias, **Toronto Star**, April 1, 2004.

A Freedom Party government will end censorship, Canadian content mandates, price fixing, and TV/radio/satellite monopolies and protectionism.



Bank Mergers & Competition

Decisions concerning mergers by banks in Canada should be made solely by the banks in question, which properly act only in the interests of their respective shareholders: the thousands of Canadians who own shares of the banks. **A Freedom Party government will allow banks to merge without government approval.**

Mergers are only one side of the coin. Greater competition should be permitted in Canadian banking: Canadians ought not to be prevented by law from obtaining banking services from any bank that is doing business in Canada and that wants to provide those services. Canadians are not well-served by the current two-class ("schedule A" vs. "schedule B") system which impedes free-market competition among banks, to the detriment of Canadian banking customers. The rights, powers, and duties of all banks in Canada ought rightfully to be the same. **A Freedom Party government will provide a level playing field for all banks in Canada, to facilitate competition for the benefit of all bank customers in Canada.**

Ending government interference with bank mergers; opening up banking to more competitors

ARTS, SPORTS & CULTURE

Closing the Cultural Museum

Canadians and other residents of Canada hold, cherish, explore and express thousands of cultural beliefs, habits, preferences and practices. Canada's culture, if it can be said to have only one, *changes constantly* as trends and fads come and go, and as the cultural mix of Canadians changes over time.

In reality, Canada is a land with not one but many changing cultures: a dynamic, multicultural land. And it is *naturally* so: *even in the absence of government*, Canada would be multicultural.

Government efforts to prevent cultural change and diversity - to, in effect, turn Canada into a *cultural museum* - are time consuming, expensive, and fruitless. They are also offensive and wrong. The





Ending cultural subsidies

Ending advertising bans on legal products

Banning kickbacks to MPs & their parties



Freedom Party takes the position that each individual in Canada should be free to promote and support the culture that appeals to him or her. Emerging cultural shifts ought not to be met with government campaigns designed to promote or preserve cultural elements that the government considers worthy. And, most certainly, multicultural funding must not be used as a means to suppress Quebec's culture.

A Freedom Party government will end the funding of the cultural museum. It will allow culture to change over time. It will not seek to neutralize or suppress emerging or existing cultural trends or norms.

Arts & Sports Funding

Government interference with matters of contract in relation to the funding of art and sporting events is presently hurting Canada's arts and sports communities. **A Freedom Party government will repeal prohibitions to the advertisement of products and services that are legally bought and sold in Canada.**

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

A Freedom Party government will prohibit Members of Parliament ("MPs"), and the parties and riding associations of which they are members, from receiving and retaining political contributions from any individual or corporation that has entered into a contract for the provision to the federal government, or a federal agency, of goods or services.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & NATIONAL DEFENCE

Global Trade, not Global Government

Decisions to enter into international agreements ought not to rest with the government but must require the agreement of Canada's elected representatives in Parliament. And, even with said agreement, Canada must not enter into any agreement that prejudices, limits or restricts Canada's right to make laws and policies for itself, or that delegates governmental power (law-making, executive functions, judicial functions

or administrative/enforcement functions) to an international body: no Canadian should be subjected to the jurisdiction of a foreign authority.

Moreover, the realities of political dynamics require that individuals continue to have the ability to find asylum outside of legal jurisdictions in which they are persecuted. The defence of freedom requires that no individual or group ought ever to be trusted with global legal jurisdiction.

The Freedom Party of Canada supports continued efforts to harmonize the laws of the world's countries, and to free up the movement of goods, services and persons around the globe.

This includes participation in meetings held by international non-governmental organizations. However, the **Freedom Party of Canada is committed to a foreign policy that respects, and guarantees the continuance of, Canada's absolute jurisdictional sovereignty and independence.**

Peace Makers, Not Peace Keepers

Soldiers *make* peace. Police *keep* the peace. A country's police force(s) are responsible for enforcing laws within that country. When a government ceases to enforce the law, it ceases to govern. Whoever does enforce the law instead is - and is *perceived* to be - the *real* government. **Freedom Party takes the position that the Canadian forces are soldiers, not police officers, and that Canada ought not to be a *de facto* government on foreign soil.**

Freedom Party takes the position that the legitimate functions of the military are to respond to and prevent unwelcome invasion of Canadian territory, attacks on Canadian territory, or acts of war against Canada that occur away from Canadian territory (for example, as against Canadians held hostage by a foreign power or terrorist group). Activities or planned activities anywhere on the globe that have as their purpose or effect an attack on the life, liberty or property of Canadians are legitimate triggers for military response where prudent diplomacy has failed or is not feasible. Accordingly, **a Freedom Party government will not use Canadian military personnel in situations where such a triggering event has not occurred.** In particular, **a Freedom Party government will not use the Canadian military to curry political or economic favour with foreign governments or *non-governmental organizations*** such as the United Nations Organization (a.k.a. the "UN").



Selling globally,
governing
locally



Soldiers
not police



Ending the use
of Canadian
soldiers as
political
currency

Defending an Immense Land: Physical and Military Training for Volunteer Civilians

A Freedom Party government will facilitate improved defence of Canada and of the life, liberty and property of those who live in Canada. **A Freedom Party government is committed to a larger, more intensively trained full-time force, and an investment in military hardware and software.** However, given the size of Canada, and the large number of sparsely populated communities in it, civilians must be prepared and enabled to come to the defence of Canada should it be attacked. **A Freedom Party government will set up a system to provide basic physical and military training to volunteer civilians.**

Better equipping
the military;
providing
training to
volunteer
civilians

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Election of Trial Judges

All judges have political values and a philosophy, and no judge is completely uninfluenced by his or her values and philosophy when rendering decisions in our Courts. Currently, judges in our Superior Courts are appointed by the Governor General of Canada according to the recommendations of the Minister of Justice.

The findings and reasons of a trial judge have a very large impact on the success or failure of appeals. Developments in the law of appeals have made it almost impossible to appeal errors of fact made by trial judges. For example, if a trial judge were to make the false conclusion and declaration that an employee did not steal money from his employer's till, it would be almost impossible to appeal that finding even if, at trial, the employee admitted to stealing the money. There will always exist the ability of a skilled trial judge to turn an unjust decision into one that is nearly impossible to appeal successfully. Moreover, because appeals are so costly, most Canadians cannot afford an appeal. Therefore, because a skilled trial judge can be rather protected from an appeal of his/her decision, the selection of intellectually honest, logical and capable trial judges is crucial. Intellectually honest, because the Crown, which appoints the judge, may sometimes be a party in a hearing before the judge. Logical, because justice requires judge's conclusions to be consistent with reality. Capable, because true justice (not "rough justice") requires exceptional talent and analysis, not cynical leaps of faith.

As a check and balance, **a Freedom Party government will implement a constitutional convention whereby the federal Justice Minister's recommendation to the Governor General in respect of the appointment of trial judges to Canada's superior and federal courts are made in accordance with the desire of the public, as expressed in judicial elections.** Because elections do not guarantee that a judge will end up being a good judge, **a Freedom Party government will also support and promote an amendment to the constitution that would allow trial judges to serve for only a *single term of not more than 10 years.***

Judges, Not Legislators

In recent years, judges have adopted the practice of *deeming* statutes to say things that they do not expressly say (i.e., "reading in" things that are not written in a statute, or "reading down/out" things that are written in a statute). Sometimes, this is done to prevent a law from being rendered unconstitutional. Sometimes, it is done to the constitution itself (for example, to create rights for groups or individuals that are mentioned nowhere in the constitution). However, the proper function of the judiciary is to *interpret* statutes, not to *amend* them.

Only our duly-elected representatives in Parliament have the constitutional authority to make statutes, or to amend or repeal statutes. When a court decides that a law is unconstitutional, the proper response is for the courts to remit the flawed law back to Parliament for amendment by Canada's elected representatives. Accordingly, **a Freedom Party government will introduce legislation that prohibits judicial "reading in" and "reading down" of Canada's statutes, including Canada's constitution.**

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY & THE RULE OF LAW

It All Starts with the MPs

The various branches of government in Canada get their authority from one thing: the Constitution of Canada. The Constitution doesn't allow the federal government to do just anything it wants to do. According to the constitution, only the provincial Legislatures can make certain laws (e.g., laws relating to health care, education, welfare, and private property), and only the federal Parliament can make others (e.g., laws

Electing our
trial judges to a
single fixed term

Ending judicial
activism



relating to criminal law, railways and banking). Also, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the “Charter”), which is a part of the Constitution of Canada, prevents federal and provincial governments from making laws that would violate the “rights and freedoms” set out in the Charter.

When politicians knowingly do something that the Constitution of Canada does not permit them to do, they are not acting on behalf of the government: rather, they are breaking the law. Members of Parliament (“MPs”) must uphold the rule of law. They must respect and defend the limits which the Constitution of Canada places on the law-making powers of Parliament.

The defence of democracy and the rule of law starts with MPs not pretending to do what the constitution does not authorize them to do. **Freedom Party MPs will never knowingly support a bill that the Constitution of Canada gives Parliament no authority to make law.**

Further Reading:

“Federal versus Provincial Powers to Make Laws: The Constitution Act, 1867” by P. McKeever
http://www.ownlife.com/tax/ca_1867.htm

No Federal Spending on Matters Falling Under Exclusively Provincial Jurisdiction

With the exception of federal transfer payments mandated by the constitution (e.g., by the *Constitution Act, 1907*, which is still in force), the Constitution of Canada does not permit the federal government to spend federal revenues on matters falling under exclusively provincial jurisdiction, such as health care, education, and welfare. Nor does it permit the federal Parliament to make laws concerning the funding of provincial governments: the Constitution of Canada gives that authority exclusively to the provincial Legislatures.

Freedom Party rejects the claim that the federal government has implicit authority to spend its revenues even on matters over which it has no authority to make laws. With the exception of federal payments to the provinces that are explicitly mandated by the Constitution of Canada, **a Freedom Party government will spend federal revenues on only those matters respecting which the federal Parliament has the power to make laws.** “Spending” shall not, itself, be considered a federal “matter” for that purpose.

Respecting the constitutional division of powers



Respecting constitutional limits on federal spending

Further Reading:

"Federalism and the Myth of the Federal Spending Power" by Andrew Petter
<http://www.mondopolitico.com/library/myth/mpintro.htm>

"Federal Grants to Universities" by Pierre Elliott Trudeau
in *Federalism and the French Canadians* (1968, St. Martins Press).

Health Care, Education & Welfare

The Constitution of Canada gives *only* the provincial Legislatures the power to make laws in respect of health care, education and welfare. **The Freedom Party of Canada will repeal federal laws that require provincial Legislatures to make laws to federal specifications in order to receive federal funding for health care, education, and welfare.**

Who's the Target?

Answer: not criminals. The Constitution of Canada gives only the provincial Legislatures the power to make laws concerning private property. The Constitution gives only the federal Parliament the authority to make criminal law. Firearms owned by Canadians are private property. Simple ownership of a firearm is not a criminal act by any intellectually honest stretch of the imagination. Registration of firearms ownership does not deter crime: it deters firearms ownership and criminalizes the failure to file paperwork with the government. **A Freedom Party government will eliminate the federal firearms registry.**

Property Rights

The confiscation of private property by government is wrong when it is done in the absence of illegal conduct, proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Yet, billed as legislation that fights organized crime, domestic violence, or terrorism, governments in Canada have passed laws that purport to allow them to confiscate your property without finding you guilty of anything at all. In fact, some such laws even allow them to take your property without charging you or anyone else with a crime or other offence. **A Freedom Party government will seek the support of the provinces for a constitutional amendment that prohibits the making of federal and provincial laws that would allow government to confiscate private property unjustly.**

Further Reading:

Canadian Bill of Rights, 1960, c. 44 <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-12.3/28511.html#rid-28518>



Entrenching
property rights in
the constitution

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EQUALITY ...of Rights, not of Bank Balances

Government, and the laws passed by our Parliament, should treat every individual the same as every other individual, regardless of their genetic make-up or their choice of peaceful activities. Discrimination is an unacceptable way of combatting discrimination. **A Freedom Party government will conduct a review of Canada's statutes to identify discriminatory statutes or discriminatory provisions in statutes. Discriminatory statutes and provisions will be either repealed or amended such that they confer no benefit or status as a discriminatory means or to a discriminatory end.**

THE ENVIRONMENT

The guiding principle in matters of the environment must be the preservation of human life, liberty and property. To that end, the Freedom Party of Canada is in favour of a balanced and intellectually honest approach to environmental law that prevents or punishes demonstrable environmental harm that demonstrably violates an individual's rights of life, liberty or property. We reject the imposition of environmental laws the purpose or effect of which are not to protect rights of life, liberty and property but to undermine those rights or to turn back the clock on human scientific, intellectual or technological progress.

MARIJUANA PROHIBITION: A DOPEY IDEA

Few adults want their children to smoke marijuana, but fewer still would want their sons or daughters to carry criminal records for life simply for having smoked marijuana.

Moreover, the manufacture and sale of marijuana cannot be stopped: prohibition laws simply move the marijuana trade from the legitimate drug production market

"Marijuana is the most violence causing drug in the history of mankind."

"Most marijuana smokers are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana usage. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes."

-1937 testimony to Congress of Harry J. Anslinger, proponent of marijuana prohibition and director of DEA predecessor (the FBN)

Eliminating or amending discriminatory laws

Ending harm to human life, liberty and property, not ending progress



into the risky, unregulated criminal market. In the criminal market, there exist no controls to ensure that consumers are not unwittingly sold marijuana tainted with much more harmful chemicals, such as PCP. In the criminal market, disputes are settled with murder and violence instead of with lawsuits.

A Freedom Party government will not promote marijuana consumption. However, it **will**:

- **end marijuana prohibition,**
- **release from custody or imprisonment** all Canadians held only for growing, selling, or possessing marijuana, and
- **purge from every Canadian's record** any record of a violation concerning only the growing, selling, or possession of marijuana.

ENGLISH, FRENCH & THE WORDS LAWYERS USE "Marriage": a Case in Point

Prior to June 10, 2003, the common law defined "marriage" as "the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others". On June 10, 2003, the Court of Appeal for Ontario decided to change the common law definition of marriage to "the voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others". On July 17, 2003, the government of Canada referred a draft bill to the Supreme Court of Canada which would define "marriage", for civil purposes, as "the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others".

The Freedom Party of Canada is opposed to giving a special *legal* definition of a word the power to influence, entrench, alter, endorse or otherwise determine the *lay* definition of the word. Changes and challenges to the *legal* definitions of words that have as their goal a change in or elimination of the *lay* definitions of those words (and the concepts they describe) ought never to be facilitated or encouraged.

Consistently with that stance, and to resolve the "gay marriage" issue in a way that neither entrenches nor changes the lay definition of the word "marriage", **a Freedom Party government will replace the word "marriage" with the phrase "civil union" in applicable federal statutes. The lay meaning of the word "marriage" will be determined or influenced not by the existence of a legal definition for that word, but by social evolution or convention.**



Ending
marijuana
prohibition



Societal
evolution, not
government, to
resolve battles
over semantics

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