

May 2013 - #5

ONTARIO'S HEALTH CARE: THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, WARNS McKEEVER



LONDON - January 28, 2013 - As Ontario NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** held a live media conference threatening to bring Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne**'s new Ontario government to the polls over Ontario's power plant scandal, **Freedom Party** leader **Paul McKeever** was warning listeners of **CJBK am1290** radio that this was the least of their worries. Following is a verbatim transcript of McKeever's live interview with *London Today*'s show host, **Andy Oudman**, which can be heard in its entirety on **FP's** provincial web site.



Interview with Freedom Party leader Paul McKeever

Andy Oudman: A dramatic and bold stand taken by Andrea Horwath, just moments ago. She's still taking questions on her strong position on Kathleen Wynne and what she must do to restore faith in the political process. And that is to call a public inquiry into the cancellation of those gas plants in Mississauga and Oakville.

I want to get some immediate reaction. I'm pleased that we have with us this morning Paul McKeever who is the (leader) of the Freedom Party of Ontario. Good morning Paul.

Paul McKeever: Good morning Andy. How are you?

Oudman: I'm good. Let me ask you: your immediate reaction to what you just heard here live on CJBK.

McKeever: Well, you know, it looks clear to me the opening moves in this chess game have now all been played by both the Hudak PCs and the Horwath NDP and the only word that sums it up for me is: *irresponsible*. I mean, here we are on the first day after Kathleen Wynne has just been selected - she hasn't even been sworn in yet - we've already got attack ads by the PCs, and now we've got Ms. Horwath's NDP saying they want to set up an ad scam-like inquiry.

McKeever: I think, if they keep going like this, it's definitely a 'yes'. I think we're probably looking at something that happens after the failure of a budget proposal. We already know that Tim Hudak's PC's have said they're not going to vote in favour of the budget, no matter what it is - so there you go - they're entirely focused on an election, just like last time. They're on the Path to Failure 2013 again. And meanwhile, the NDP look like they're swallowing the same kool-aid.

So, we're ready to go, Andy. Freedom Party's actually got some proposals to deal with the elephant in the room, which is not some power plant.

The elephant in the room is the fact that we're running double-digit deficits, that we are facing a debt that the finance minister said, just last week, is a 'ticking time bomb.' A ticking time bomb! And yet, what are we spending time on in the PC party? They're putting out attack ads and the NDP are putting out this 'we want an inquiry'.

They're distracting the public from the key crisis. Because they have not put forward, and will not put forward, an answer to how are they going to balance the budget if they're elected.

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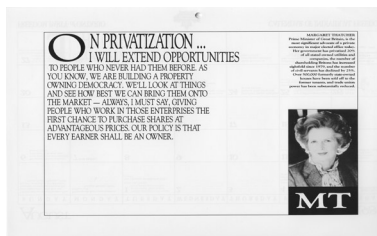


It's clear to me the only thing the Hudak PCs and the Horwath NDP have in mind is another election. They're trying to trigger it and they don't want to come forward with ideas. They just want to say 'Liberal bad. Liberal bad. Elect us instead.'

Oudman: Where do you think this is going in terms of an election. Yay or nay?

MARGARET THATCHER REMEMBERED

BELOW: Viewers of *Just Right's* YouTube posting of a March 15, 2012 *CHRW* radio interview with Lord Christopher Monckton may have noticed show host and Freedom Party president Robert Metz hand him a publication during a commercial break. Held open to a page featuring former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher (below center). It can now be revealed that the publication was a souvenir copy of Freedom Party's 1989 *Calendar of Individual Freedom*. Remarkably, the Thatcher quote and policy highlighted in the calendar was actually one of the key policies she was persuaded to pursue by her long-time advisor, Lord Christopher Monckton himself. (More on page 4.)



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Andy, it's time for the public to be given an answer. Freedom Party's coming forward with one. I hope they will listen. We're going to be putting it out before the legislature meets again. But this is utterly irresponsible! I'm utterly beside myself!

Oudman: Well Paul, you've got the Tories with their attack ads, you've got Andrea Horwath saying call a public inquiry into the gas plants. I'm looking to the Freedom Party. What big announcement do you have this morning, Paul?

McKeever: Well in 2012 Andy we did put out what we called an Opposition Budget. Nobody else wanted to put one out to say what they would do. We did. And we're doing it again this time.

What we're saying is: Look, the elephant in the room when it comes to the budget is the spiralling cost of health care.

And as it turns out, it's the result of a decision made by the Progressive Conservatives in 1969 to ban alternatives. We need to open up health care insurance to alternatives. Get the health care file off budget - restore the connection between the patient and the doctor so that we don't have wasted services. So that people aren't going into waiting rooms in these clinics with sniffles but rather know there is some cost associated with every health care procedure that they seek. And we have to make sure that it's competitive so that the prices come down.

Right now, the cost of health care is as high or higher than the price in the United States for private health care - which is already horribly too high because in the United States they've got lobbyists setting up mandatory requirements to cover chiropractic or whatever. So we need a competitive system where the patients can get just the coverage they want and we need to do that now.

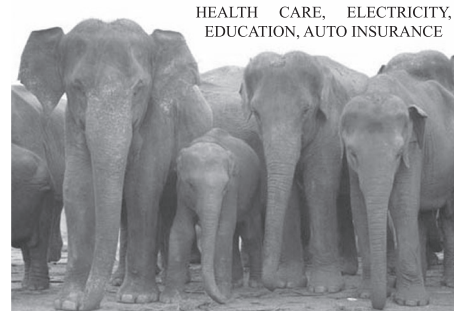
Because right now, Andy, health care accounts for the lion's share of the deficit. And we can both eliminate the deficit and eliminate several of the tax burdens in Ontario, restore some of the attractive environment we had here for jobs, (and) stop the outflow of jobs to places like India and China.

Right now I'm an employment lawyer. Every day I'm seeing an increasing number of people who come in and they say: "I've just lost my customer service role," and I say "Ah, your jobs just went off to India," and they say "Yes they did sir, how did you know?" - "Well, because I saw four more just like you earlier today."

It's disgusting, Andy. And it's all out of political cowardice. We have to deal with this deficit now - and health care is the budget elephant in the room.

Freedom Party's going to do that. You'll be seeing the plan; I'll release it in February, just before the legislature meets.

Oudman: Paul, you know what strikes me? It's very interesting that Andrea Horwath, in her live news conference just moments ago, referred to this phrase "the elephant in the room" - the fact is, Paul, I wish it were just an elephant in the room. We have a herd of stampeding elephants in the room. Give me the top five elephants leading this stampede of stampeding elephants in the room. What are the five issues - the five big ones - in the order of how important they are to the future of Ontario.



McKeever: Well I'll put this out there first, Andy. The politicians that are currently in there want you to believe that it's a whole herd of stampeding elephants so that you'll be feeling so overwhelmed that you'll believe that nothing can be done to stop them. The fact of the matter is, the entire budget problem would be resolved simply with the health care reform I was talking about.

But of course, the big issues for Freedom Party are: health care, electricity, education, auto insurance. It's always the same things. Every year, those are the big ticket items. And of course we have a number of small things that need to be fixed; for example, wine and beer in corner stores - we've proposed that for a couple of years.

Oudman: Ok, but let's go back to those top four that you mentioned. What are they and in what order?

McKeever: Health care is absolutely number one. It is right now driving the deficit.

Oudman: I totally totally agree. This thing is just exploding, the health care budget.

McKeever: Right.

Oudman: Ok. What's number two?

McKeever: Number two is absolutely electricity. That's not so much a budget issue. That's a personal expense issue because individuals have to pay that when they get their bill in the mail. The problem there is the Green Energy Act. We've gone ahead and committed ourselves to windmills and solar. We need to get off of that right away and we need to restore sources that are privately owned, privately financed. We can't be getting the government involved in these \$20 billion boondoggles that take the form, usually, of nuclear. And we have to allow clean coal, not dirty coal, but clean coal alternatives that do exist.

That's the most inexpensive form. We need to better utilize our water - hydro sources. And I think (we should) allow individuals in their own homes to generate electricity - take some of the restrictions away.

Currently, in my area up here in farm country, we've got people who'd like to generate just a little bit of electricity using their own personal turbines, and they're prohibited by local governments from doing so. We have to eliminate those prohibitions; allow people to generate electricity. Cut some of their personal expense until we can get this province back on track...

Oudman: Ok your number one item is health care. Your number two item is electricity. Number three.

McKeever: We need to restore choice in education, and we need to stop teacher bashing. This idea that you can somehow balance the budget by bashing teachers, bashing unions, interfering with labour relations, absolutely has to stop.

It's a distraction. I've been saying it since last August. We need to stop making teachers the enemy, unions the enemy, and look at the fact that these budgets are not passed by teachers and unions.

These budgets are passed by MPPs - elected MPPs - who should be taking personal responsibility and are failing utterly and are thrashing out in all directions.

We need to take the focus off of teachers and unions and we need to restore choice. Yes, in education, but take responsibility in the legislature for the budget.

Oudman: And we'll let you sneak one more in. What's number four?

McKeever: Auto insurance. I've been saying this for a long time. People are afraid to make claims. You know, you get someone backing into you in a parking lot, if you make a claim, your premiums go up. Unacceptable. It's all the result of no fault insurance and these statutory accident benefits which encourage fraud.

Right now, the reason your premiums are as high as they are is because we've got rampant fraud. So to control the expense of it, they keep on decreasing the benefits; what used to be \$100,000 in coverage is now \$25,000. It's disgraceful. We're paying for nothing.

Oudman: Paul, uh, you're scaring me because I'm going, wait a minute! Am I applauding the Freedom Party of Ontario? Because you're making a whole lot of sense here.

Absolutely, health care is an exploding issue and it is an elephant in the room. Ok. Andrea

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Horwath, news conference, just moments ago, saying we've got to have a public inquiry. Is Kathleen Wynne gonna bite?

McKeever: No she won't, but she's still going down. That party, I'm sorry, but they've overstayed their welcome and they've got just far too much to account for and the only way they'll be able to clean their house is by taking a time out.

Oudman: One more thing. When's the next election, Paul McKeever of the Freedom Party?

McKeever: Well, if the NDP and PCs keep pecking away like they are in all these random

directions, I think we're looking end of May, beginning of June.

Oudman: Ok. Here's the key question this morning, and this will determine when we have the next election. Andrea Horwath: she's got a choice. She can prop Kathleen Wynne up and give her time to establish herself as a solid new leader - or - she can take the risk of an election now (even though Ontarians don't want one). When Andrea Horwath is topping the polls, when it comes to the question which of the political leaders are you fondest of?

McKeever: Right. I think if anyone looks at this, they're going to look at what's behind curtain

number two there, Andy. Ms Horwath, I think she's going to go for it this time; I don't think it'll work out for her, but I think if she's ever going to have a chance of returning us all to socialism and Rae days, this is going to be it.

Oudman: Ok. Very interesting. Paul, I appreciate your joining us this morning.

McKeever: Take care.

Oudman: Fascinating dramatic developments in just the last few minutes... Andrea Horwath not tipping her hand as to whether or not she's going to prop up the new Liberal government of Kathleen Wynne... [end]

Life, Liberty, ...and Plunder?

McKEEVER DISPUTES EVES on GOVERNMENT

March 9, 2011 - TORONTO - Past Ontario premier and former *Progressive Conservative* leader **Ernie Eves** helped make it startlingly clear how *his* party and **Freedom Party** view politics and government in completely opposite ways. Heard on the **John Oakley** show (am640) around 9:20 am, Eves proudly boasted that "the purpose of government is to redistribute wealth." On the same show, panelist **Catherine Swift** of the *Canadian Federation of Independent Business* was also heard saying that "(Socialism) is a good idea in theory..."

This delighted another panelist, Marxist professor **Leo Panitch** (author of *The Communist Manifesto Now*) who remarked "I'm so happy to hear, Catherine, that in theory you are a communist." All of the panelists laughed, dismissing the revelation as being somehow insignificant.

Calling in to the open-line talk show, **FP** leader **Paul McKeever** challenged Eves on his view of government, who then repeated his conviction that "the purpose of government is to redistribute wealth."

"You've got Ernie Eves saying that the purpose of government is to redistribute wealth!" exclaimed McKeever in astonishment at this supposedly 'Conservative' viewpoint.

"It is," insisted Eves. "What do *you* think the purpose of government is?"

"To defend everyone's life, liberty, and property," explained McKeever.

"Well, that too," responded Eves.

"You can't defend my property if you're helping someone else steal it." McKeever declared, pointing to the obvious contradiction in claiming that one can both protect and confiscate property at the same time.

"I didn't say that; I said that the purpose of government is to redistribute wealth and to raise revenues through taxation (for benefits) that the private sector wouldn't pay for, like medicare," Eves explained.

"That might be true for *Progressive Conservatives*," responded McKeever, "but not for capitalists."

Eves' comments are symptomatic of today's so-called 'right-wing,' revealing a deep-rooted collectivist outlook at the heart of 'right-wing' thinking. Yet it is conservatives who are still being confused with capitalism, free markets, and lower taxes.

Says **FP** president **Robert Metz**: "That's why I've always found it necessary to distance myself from the right wing. On our weekly radio show, **Just Right**, **Robert Vaughan** and I begin each broadcast with a reminder that we are 'not right wing, just right.' The problem is that most people who are interested in lower taxes, limited government, and more 'common sense' in politics, continue to falsely believe that Ontario's *Progressive Conservative Party* has anything to do with these values. It does not. Conservatives have neither preached nor practised these values for the better part of a century. Theirs is a history of wealth redistribution, and the terms *life, liberty, property* appear nowhere in their agenda."

Even when convinced that the *Progressive Conservative Party* is pursuing communistic ideals, most 'right-wing' voters continue to support the PCs believing, as Ernie Eves apparently believes, that a government can *both* protect life, liberty, property, and 'redistribute wealth.'

What this makes indisputable is that, labels notwithstanding, there has been no party on the right sitting in Ontario's legislature for a long time indeed. Worse, with the exception of **Freedom Party**, all other emerging smaller parties, most notably the *Green Party*, are as leftist as the *Liberals* and NDP.

As the only party *in* the right, let alone 'on' the right, that exists in Ontario, **Freedom Party** faces a unique challenge. In our absence, there is no real political dialogue or debate in Ontario. There is only a Monologue of Sameness emanating from all of the other parties.

The consequence of this is Ontario's headlong rush into deficit, debt, and a complete collapse of government-provided services.

Simply changing elected representatives, but not stopping wealth 'redistribution,' will not reverse the tragic political and economic direction in which Ontario is moving. After all, "redistributing" wealth is precisely what destroys wealth. [end]



AT LEFT: The front cover of *Freedom Party's* four-page Sept 2, 2003 insert in the pages of the *National Post* attacked the policies of then-Ontario *Progressive Conservative* premier Ernie Eves. Within hours of releasing 130,000 copies distributed across Ontario, Eves unexpectedly called the election, effectively drawing attention away from *Freedom Party's* planned event in downtown Toronto that day. The entire story, along with a complete copy of the original brochure, was published in *FP's* official newsletter, *Freedom Flyer* #36 (Sept 2004) and can be accessed through *FP's* web site on line.

MARGARET THATCHER 1925 - 2013

ON PRIVATIZATION ...
I WILL EXTEND OPPORTUNITIES
TO PEOPLE WHO NEVER HAD THEM BEFORE. AS
YOU KNOW, WE ARE BUILDING A PROPERTY
OWNING DEMOCRACY. WE'LL LOOK AT THINGS
AND SEE HOW BEST WE CAN BRING THEM ONTO
THE MARKET — ALWAYS, I MUST SAY, GIVING
PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THOSE ENTERPRISES THE
FIRST CHANCE TO PURCHASE SHARES AT
ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES. OUR POLICY IS THAT
EVERY EARNER SHALL BE AN OWNER.



ABOVE, AT RIGHT: From Freedom Party's 1989 Calendar of Individual Freedom, compiled by then-FP Action Director Marc Emery: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was chosen as one of the calendar's twelve positive influences (moving towards freedom, not away from it) in the world politics of the day. Thatcher herself received a gift copy of the calendar (which originally appeared as seen on bottom center of page 1), sent to her by then-senior economist of the Fraser Institute, Walter Block.

BELOW LEFT: Professor Christopher Essex (right) listens to Lord Christopher Monckton (left) as he describes some of his experiences as Margaret Thatcher's key policy advisor during her years as prime minister of Britain. Appearing on CHRW (94.9 FM) Radio's Just Right on March 15, 2012, and hosted by FP executive members Robert Metz and Robert Vaughan, the broadcast was also video recorded for You Tube where it has been viewed over 2,000 times as of this writing and can still be viewed today. Four other Just Right You Tube videos featuring Monckton have accumulated over 20,000 views between them.



MARGARET THATCHER
Prime Minister of Great Britain, is the
most significant advocate of a private
economy in major elected office today.
Her government has privatized 20%
of all stated owned utilities and
companies, the number of
shareholding Britons has increased
eightfold since 1979, and the number
of civil servants has declined by 25%.
Over 500,000 formerly state-owned
houses have been sold off to the
former tenants, and trade union
power has been substantially reduced.

MARGARET THATCHER REMEMBERED

The passing of **Margaret Thatcher** on April 8, 2013 has reignited the debate about her policies and her legacy for the citizens of Britain - and the world. With today's political policies of both the right and left having veered 180 degrees in the opposite direction of that pursued by Thatcher, many of her ideas are, to the statists in all parties, as dangerous today as they were in her time as prime minister. For **Freedom Party**, her passing has a particular significance, one stretching from her days as Britain's prime minister to the present.

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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." Freedom Party advocates capitalism solely because it is the only system compatible with reality, reason, and the pursuit of one's own happiness.

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