



ZEITGEIST

Freedom Party of Ontario's 2025 Election Platform

Leader's Message

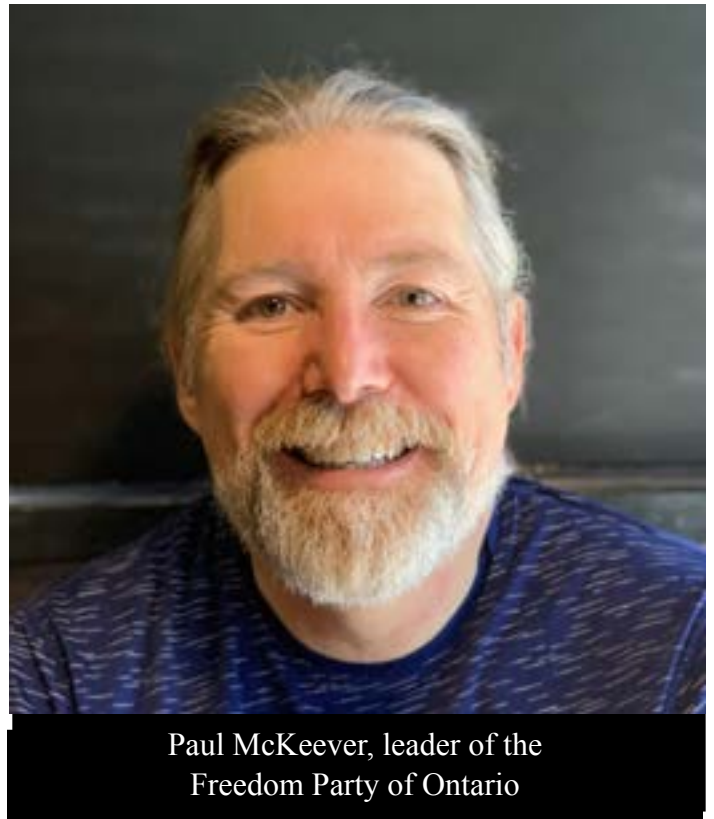
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write on February 4, 2025, approximately one week after Doug Ford called a premature and illegal “snap” election for February 27, 2025. Although the *Election Act* mandates that the next regularly scheduled election is to be held in June of 2026, Ford’s personal polling numbers were high over the last few weeks, and he wanted to catch everyone (who is planning for the June 2026 election) unprepared. In other words: he wanted to *cheat*, so as to extend his rule to 2029.

In an effort to justify his \$175,000,000 illegal election, Ford has decided (like he did during Covid) to capitalize upon your fear. He claims that President Trump’s threatened 25% tariff on Canadian goods is an emergency that will require that Ontario’s government respond by spending “tens of billions” of your earnings on hand-outs to Ontario businesses affected by the Trump tariff. He claims he needs a new mandate before going on that spending spree. It is a lie. He was given that mandate in the election of 2022, as a result of which he already has a super-majority in the Ontario Legislature. The *truth* is that Ford is using the Trump tariff threat as an *excuse* to cover up Ford’s real purpose in holding a snap election: to extend the duration of his Premiership.

Of course, on February 3rd, President Trump announced that he was delaying the imposition of the tariff for at least 30 days. And, if Canada works with the Trump administration to work out problems with the current trade arrangements, it is quite likely that we’ll never see the tariff at all. Even Donald Trump understands that tariffs on imports from Canada - which are a tax not on Canadians, but on Americans - are bad economics, and are unpopular for the Americans who would pay them (i.e., all Americans). Trump is *on record* as a person who is in favour of free trade, and *opposed* to tariffs; as a person who will *threaten* tariffs to cause other countries to *stop* their unfair protectionist measures, such as: Doug Ford’s plan to give “tens of billions” to Ontario businesses so that they can sell their wares at lower prices than their U.S. competitors.

So, here we are in an election the real purpose of which was always just to keep Doug Ford in power until 2029, at a cost to us all of \$175,000,000.00. The tariff that was Doug’s false *excuse* for the election...hasn’t happened. There is *no excuse* for this election.



Paul McKeever, leader of the
Freedom Party of Ontario

Nonetheless, Freedom Party will again rise to the challenge. This election platform is titled “Zeitgeist”, which means “spirit of the times”. It contains rational, common-sense, and doable solutions to some of the most pressing problems that exist at this time: how to deal - and how not to deal - with the current trade dispute; how to deal with “gender” theory’s attacks on children, on women, and on good governance; how to remedy the injustices done to those who opposed lock-downs or mandatory vaccinations during Covid; how to deal with anti-individual, anti-justice “DEI” programs; and how to ensure that the government can never use alleged emergencies to sideline the Legislature, undermine democracy, and violate the freedom of individuals to think and choose for themselves.

Doug Ford is equating the current trade dispute with a “pandemic”, and he wants to deal with it - *for four more years* - in the same way he dealt with Covid. We must not allow him to declare an “economic emergency” so that he can again commandeer the economy and our lives, and leave the province indebted and in ruins. We must not let him finish *that* job. On February 27, 2025 exercise your power to be free to think and choose for yourself, and to pursue your own happiness as you see fit: *vote* for your Freedom Party candidate.

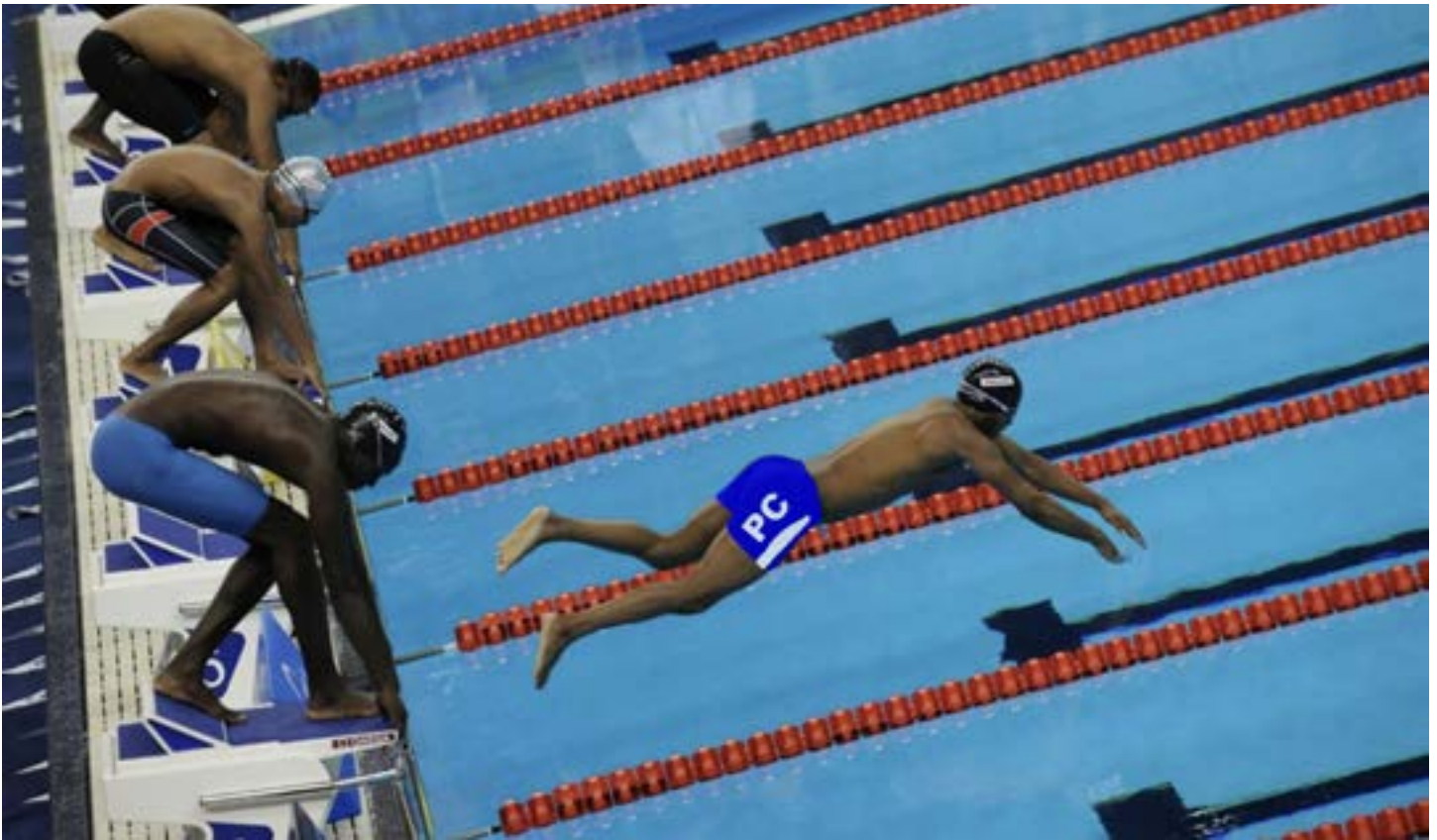
Paul McKeever
Leader of the Freedom Party of Ontario



Zeitgeist: Freedom Party of Ontario's 2025 Election Platform

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PROTECTING DEMOCRACY: Upholding Fixed Election Dates in Ontario

Democracy is the idea that the source of a government's authority is the governed. Elections are a defence of democracy. For that reason, elections require trust, transparency, and the equal participation of all citizens. However, Doug Ford has called a \$175,000,000.00 snap election that violates a 20 year old quasi constitutional law that was adopted to remedy an old, anti-democratic practice of governing parties.

For decades, Ontario operated under a system where elections could be called at the whim of the premier, often leading to years of one-party dominance. The Progressive Conservatives held power almost continuously from 1943 to 1985, largely due to this advantageous electoral timing prerogative. The arrogance and misuse of power by some premiers, like Progressive Conservative Ernie Eves - who evaded the legislature by delivering the 1993 budget in a private setting - underscored the need for reform.

In 2004, new legislation was introduced to give Ontarians a new democratic right: fixed election dates. The *Election Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004*, established that general elections in Ontario would be held on the first Thursday of October every four years (later adjusted to June, to avoid conflicts with federal elections). This law was not merely cosmetic. It was the creation of a new right, held by every voter in Ontario. Then-premier Dalton McGuinty explained the nature of the new right:

“Never again will a governing party be able to manipulate the date of an election to serve its own interests...Never again will a Premier have the ability to set election dates when it is politically opportune for the government. I, as Premier, am forever renouncing this right.”

The law was adopted in December of 2005, and it remains law today. It preserves the Parliamentary power of the Lieutenant Governor General to dissolve Parliament when there is a vote of no-confidence, or

when a money bill fails to pass. But it otherwise requires that: “general elections shall be held on the first Thursday in June in the fourth calendar year following polling day in the most recent general election.”

The right to fixed election dates ensures that everyone - including Elections Ontario and millions of Ontario voters - can plan for elections, engage in political discourse, and participate without the cheat of a snap election call. It prevents the manipulation of election timing for political gain, ensuring governance focuses on public service rather than electoral strategy.

Until 2025, Ontario’s premiers respect and complied with the fixed election date law. They never violated the democratic right Ontarians have held for two decades. Until January 28, 2025, Ontario’s next election was scheduled to occur in June of 2026.

However, on January 28, 2025, Doug Ford violated the democratic right to fixed election dates, and called a snap election for February 27th. His violation undermines the spirit of the fixed election law and sets a dangerous precedent for other premiers to disregard democratic rights, and return to the era where snap elections could be timed to keep a governing party in power, and prevent change by giving the governing party an anti-democratic head-start.

A Freedom government:

- will not support or entertain any notion of moving away from the fixed election schedule.
- will actively educate the public about the importance of fixed election dates and advocate against any attempts to bypass this democratic safeguard.
- will introduce legislation that further entrenches fixed elections and makes it clear that a Premier has no authority to call a snap election.

The right to fixed election dates is not just a policy. It is a sacred trust that defends democracy in Ontario. Freedom Party vows to protect this right, ensuring that future elections remain a democratic exercise of the people, by the people, for the people.

 Halburton Echo

Ford calls snap election – over a year in advance

It's official. In a surprise to very few, Premier Doug Ford announced that he will be running a snap provincial election, with Ontarians headed to the polls...

January 30, 2025

 Toronto Star

Doug Ford is trying to catch his opponents off guard with a snap election. Just how ready are they?

Ontario's opposition leaders will launch their election campaigns this week, but as of yet no party has a full slate of 124 candidates for the Feb. 27 vote.

January 29, 2025

 Ottawa Citizen

Denley: Ontario's hasty election will make it hard on voters

Ottawa voters can expect a last-minute scramble that offers little time or opportunity to learn about individual candidates.

January 29, 2025

 PressProgress

New Poll Finds Majority of Ontarians Reject Doug Ford's Reason For Calling an Early Election

As Doug Ford rolls the dice and takes a gamble on an early election, new polling suggests most Ontarians are not buying his excuse for calling an...

January 30, 2025

 Toronto Star

Martin Regg Cohn: Doug Ford has stripped himself of credibility with a Trumped-up snap election

As the Progressive Conservative leader blames Donald Trump for an unnecessary election, his believability will be doubted on issues closer to home,...

January 30, 2025

 BradfordToday.ca

LETTER: Reader votes 'no' on Ford's early election call

'He has a clear mandate already as he has a majority government; you can't do better than that,' says writer.

February 1, 2025

 CBC

Ontario snowbirds worry they won't be able to vote in Ford's snap election

When Patricia Williams heard Doug Ford hint an early election was in the wings, she wrote to the PC Leader with a plea: don't do it, because she's got a...

February 1, 2025

 The Globe and Mail

Ford's cynical election call should disabuse voters of the notion that he's just a straight-shooting regular guy

Trump's tariff threat is a mere pretext. Doug Ford's snap election has been in the works for months.

February 1, 2025



NAVIGATING TRADE TENSIONS

A Practical and Effective Response to Tariff Threats

A U.S. tariff imposed on Canadian-made goods is a tax that Americans must pay if they choose to buy Canadian-made goods. A tariff punishes the consumer for not buying goods produced in her own country. The goal of a U.S. tariff on Canadian goods is to get Americans to instead buy goods made in the U.S.A.

President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on Canadian goods has sparked a debate on how Ontario should respond.

Ford Fighting His Own Fire with Gasoline

Premier Doug Ford's knee-jerk response has been a promise to give tens of billions of dollars to Ontario businesses and individuals affected by the tariff, and he has promised to match U.S. tariffs "dollar for dollar". His promises demonstrate his profound lack of understanding of the nature of trade disputes; an ignorance that, if acted upon, risks exacerbating the situation.

Protectionist measures like those now being proposed by Ford are one of the things that have provoked Donald Trump to impose tariffs. For years, the Ford government has been funneling billions of taxpayer dollars to businesses in Ontario. Those government subsidies have given Ontario companies an unfair advantage over

U.S. competitors: the subsidies allow U.S. consumers to buy Canadian imports for less than they would have to pay for U.S.-made goods. Increasing these subsidies by tens of billions of dollars - as Doug Ford is threatening to do - would only validate Trump's accusations of unfair trade, potentially leading to harsher tariffs on Canadian goods purchased by Americans.

Ford Hungry for Pandemic Powers Again

Ford has compared the imposition of U.S. tariffs to another "pandemic". This is alarming because, during the pandemic, his top-down seizure of economic control led to the closure of businesses, to personal hardships and bankruptcies, and to strained public finances. The last thing Ontarians need is another period where government restricts their behaviours and choices, and threatens their livelihoods and financial stability.

Ford Is All Talk on Tariffs

Ford's assertion of matching U.S. tariffs "dollar-for-dollar" is not only legally impossible but also strategically naive. Provincial governments have no constitutional authority to impose tariffs.

Only the federal government has jurisdiction to impose a tariff on goods imported from the USA. Ford's public threats to impose tariffs "dollar for dollar" expose a fundamental lack of understanding of his government's role. Through ignorance or dishonesty, Doug Ford is misleading voters and potentially weakening Ontario's position in federal negotiations. His tariff threats serve no purpose other than to escalate tensions without real leverage, signaling to Donald Trump that Ontario is unprepared for nuanced diplomatic engagement.

Ford's Macho-man Act

Doug Ford recently told reporters "Imagine [Liberal leader] Bonnie Crombie or [NDP leader] Marit Stiles sitting across from President Trump negotiating a deal. It would be an absolute disaster," he said. "And God help us if that ever happens." Ford's comments about negotiating with Trump, particularly his misogynistic implications regarding Crombie and Stiles, miss the mark entirely. The plain reality is that premiers do not sit across from presidents and negotiate trade deals. Doug Ford knows that, but he thinks that Ontario voters do not.

If the unlikely happens and Donald Trump happens to notice Ford's somewhat farcicle tough-guy bloviations, the rhetoric and posturing can only backfire. In response, Donald Trump most probably will choose to make an international example out of Ford and Ontario. Ford's bluster is endangering Ontario's economic interests.

A Positive and Constructive Path to Resolution

A Freedom government will take a different, more constructive approach to this challenge:

- Before taking any action, we will pinpoint exactly what in our current trade practices - what specific protectionist measures - bothers the U.S. to the extent that Donald Trump is willing to impose tariffs. An effective response can be developed after, and only after, we know what Ontario policies are motivating Donald Trump to impose a tariff.
- Ontario's government must be prepared to acknowledge that it has in place protection-

ist measures that give some Ontario businesses an edge over U.S. competitors. This honesty could open doors to negotiations where both sides benefit, rather than continuing a cycle of retaliation.

- Instead of increasing protectionist measures in Ontario, we will engage in open, informative communication with U.S. counterparts. The goal should be *free* trade, not trade *wars*. We must work toward a resolution that reduces each side's contribution to unfair, anti-competitive practices, and reduces the likelihood of any future threatened tariffs.

Conclusion

A Freedom government will be committed to an optimistic, wise, and realistic approach to this tariff threat. Our strategy is not about escalating conflicts but about de-escalating them through smart diplomacy, transparency, and a commitment to free trade principles. We will aim to protect Ontario's economic interests by building bridges, not walls, ensuring that our province thrives in a world where fair competition and free trade trumps confrontation.

DOUG FORD:

"We may have to put **tens of billions** of dollars into the economy to keep people moving, keep people afloat".

PAUL MCKEEVER:

"Borrowing and spending tens of billions will ramp up inflation, taxation, and unemployment."



FORD'S DANGEROUS IMPOTENCE

Hollow, Self-Destructive Threats to Cut Off Exports

Irresponsibly, Premier Doug Ford has threatened to cut off electricity exports as a response to potential American tariffs:

“We will go to the extent of cutting off their energy, going down to Michigan, going down to New York State and over to Wisconsin....we’ll use every tool in our toolbox, including cutting them off energy that we’re sending down there.”

He also is threatening to cut off mineral exports to the U.S.:

“Canada has what the U.S. needs: high-grade nickel and critical minerals, energy and electricity, uranium, potash. If President Trump follows through with these tariffs, we can — and should — use every tool in our toolkit.”

Cutting off electricity or mineral exports to the U.S. would be an economic and political disaster that would hurt Ontario more than the U.S. The Freedom Party of Ontario strongly opposes such reckless actions.

Electricity

Ontario is blessed with an abundant, reliable, and affordable supply of electricity, largely produced from hydro, nuclear, and renewable sources. Our ability to generate more power than we consume has made Ontario an energy-exporting province, with substantial electricity sales to the United States.

Ontario currently exports electricity to U.S. states such as New York, Michigan, and Minnesota, generating over \$1 billion in annual revenue. This revenue helps offset the costs of maintaining Ontario’s power grid, keeping electricity prices lower for Ontario families and businesses. By cutting off exports, we would lose this revenue, forcing Ontario to either raise hydro rates or subsidize electricity production through higher taxes. Either way, Ontarians would pay the price.

Although Ontario supplies electricity to parts of the U.S., the American grid is highly diversified and capable of adjusting to supply disruptions. The U.S. would replace Ontario’s electricity with power from other sources, including increased U.S. domestic

production from natural gas, coal, and renewables. This means that Ontario would lose a key revenue stream while achieving nothing - except pushing U.S. states to permanently shift away from Ontario's power.

Ontario's energy sector supports thousands of jobs. Cutting exports would shrink the market for Ontario-generated power, which would result in job losses not only in the energy sector but in all of the other Ontario industries that support it.

Additionally, major industries depend on affordable electricity, including auto manufacturing, steel production, and high-tech industries. Higher electricity costs from lost export revenue would make Ontario a less attractive place for investment, driving businesses elsewhere.

Ontario's power grid is physically interconnected with the U.S. through multiple transmission lines. These connections aren't just about trade—they help stabilize the grid by balancing electricity supply and demand.

If we suddenly cut off exports, Ontario could face:

- Grid instability, increasing the risk of black-outs.
- Inefficient power production, forcing Ontario to waste surplus electricity when demand is low.
- Higher costs for shutting down and restarting power plants unnecessarily.

Minerals

Ontario also has a wealth of minerals. Americans bought \$30 billion worth of Canadian minerals in 2023. Our mining industry directly employs approximately 31,000 people, and indirectly employs another 46,000 people..

Ontario's economy heavily relies on its mineral exports, particularly critical minerals which are essential for industries like electric vehicle manufacturing. Restricting these exports could lead to economic downturns within the province, affecting jobs and industries that depend on this trade.

The United States is a primary market for Canadian minerals, with Canada being the largest mineral supplier to the U.S. Limiting these exports might push the U.S. to seek alternative suppliers, possibly from countries like China, which could lead to a long-term loss of market share for Canadian firms. This dependency means that any retaliation could backfire by permanently altering trade patterns.

Cutting exports would shrink the market for Ontario's minerals, which would result in job losses in mining and in all of the other Ontario industries that support the mining industry.

No Provincial Jurisdiction

Most importantly, Canada's constitution gives the federal government - not provincial government - power to make laws and policy over exports. Ontario's premier *has no authority* to cut off exports. Doug Ford's threats are just hot air.

They are, however, dangerous hot air. If Americans hear Doug Ford's threats, and take them at all seriously, they will be motivated to cut off U.S. exports to Canada. Ford is playing a dangerous game that can only hurt Ontario. And he's doing it to make Ontario voters think he's a tough guy with powers that, in reality, he does not have.

A Rational Approach: Keep It Real

A Freedom government will not make hollow threats that Ontario may cut off exports to the U.S.A. Instead, it will advocate that Canada's federal government not commit the self-destructive error of cutting off the export of Ontario's energy and minerals to the U.S.A. We will adopt long-term, market-based energy and mining policies that provide stability and economic growth on both sides of the border.

"The premier has vowed to unleash a "strong list" of retaliatory measures should Trump's tax come to pass, including cutting off energy to the 1.5 million homes it powers in Michigan, New York state and Minnesota." - CTV News, January 13, 2025.

GENDER:

○ **Male**

○ **Female**

GENDER: BIOLOGICAL SEX

Clarity in Gender Pronoun Usage and Policy

The Freedom Party of Ontario recognizes the distinction between biological sex (traditionally, referred to synonymously with the word “gender”), and the somewhat recent redefinition of the word “gender” put forward by “gender theorists” who consider gender to be a psychological and social construct rather than a strictly biological one. We respect and defend every individual’s freedom to consider themselves any gender (whether biologically determined or psychologically determined), or to speak and act peacefully consistently with a gender. However, we also respect the reality that every individual is either biologically male, biologically female, or biologically “intersex” (a reference to a very rare condition in which a person, *biologically*, is neither male nor female).

While respecting and defending every individual’s freedom to have differing views on what the word “gender” should refer to, and to express their gender as they see fit, a freedom government will prioritize physical reality over mental preferences and views when it comes to legislation and policy.

With a Freedom government, no law or policy enacted by the Government of Ontario, or by any organization to which it delegates authority or contributes taxpayer dollars, shall mandate the use of the numerous pronouns introduced by gender theory.

The Government of Ontario, and organizations under its authority, will use:

- “he,” “him,” and “his” exclusively for biological males and intersex individuals whose biological traits are predominantly male.

- “she,” “her,” and “hers” exclusively for biological females and intersex individuals whose biological traits are predominantly female.
- “they,” “their,” “theirs” will be used only in reference to more than one individual, preserving the traditional *plural* use of these pronouns.

With respect to gender theory and its implications:

- No individual or group shall be compelled by law or policy to study, understand, recognize, or respect gender theory or its implications.
- No organization to which the Ontario government delegates authority or contributes taxpayer dollars shall have any authority to compel study, understanding, recognition, or respect for gender theory or its implications.
- No law or regulation will impose any penalty or consequence for simply referring to a person with what the person considers to be the wrong gender pronoun.
- No law or regulation will impose any penalty or consequence for communicating to others one’s preferred gender pronouns.
- All public services, including health care, social services, and legal documentation, will adhere to these pronoun standards.

Rationale

The Freedom Party of Ontario stands for individual freedom. In support of individual freedom, a Freedom government will found laws and policies not upon personal beliefs, but upon evidence and reason. This approach to gender terminology is aimed at preservation of straightforward communication in public policy, ensuring that our government operates consistently with the physical reality upon which individual freedom is founded.



PROTECTING FEMALE-ONLY SPACES/SPORTS

Biological differences exist between the sexes. For that reason, women have long fought to have spaces of their own; teams and places in which females can be with, socialize with, and compete solely with, other females. As a commitment to equality, privacy, fairness, and personal safety and security, a Freedom government will take steps to preserve female-only spaces, sports, and other endeavors.

Female-Only Sports

A Freedom government will defend - with law and policy - leagues and divisions of sports exclusive to biological females. This will ensure fair competition and opportunities for female athletes.

Female athletes should not lose scholarship opportunities to biological males. Accordingly, a Freedom government will institute policies that safeguard these opportunities for biological females, acknowledging historical male/female disparities in sports.

There is a clear need to protect female athletes from higher risks of injury when competing against males with different physical strengths, builds, and weights. A Freedom government will enshrine in law sex-

based divisions in sports, for safety reasons.

As comedian Bridget Phetasy has put it: “The patriarchy is so crafty”. We get it. A Freedom government will not permit *nouveau* re-definitions of the words “gender” or “woman” to undermine female-only sports. It will prohibit the practice of allowing biological males who “identify” as “women” to participate in all-female teams, leagues, divisions, or competitions.

Female-Only Spaces

Public restrooms, changerooms, and other communal areas designated for use by “women” should remain female-only to ensure privacy, dignity, and safety. Our policy will emphasize biological sex for access to these spaces.

Women’s shelters must be safe havens tailored to those females who have experienced violence. Access should be based on biological sex to maintain the effectiveness and safety of these services.

Privacy, safety, and comfort in schools and prisons require clear distinctions between biologically male and

biologically female facilities. A Freedom government will ensure that policy meets these requirements.

What's Good for the Goose...

The protection of female-only spaces and sports implies, equally, the legitimacy of male-only spaces and sports. There is nothing objectionable about co-ed or mixed-gender sports, leagues, divisions, or teams. However, nor ought there be anything objectionable to policy parity when it comes to male-only spaces and sports.

A Freedom government will defend - with law and policy - leagues and divisions of sports exclusive to biological males. It will institute policies that safeguard scholarship opportunities to biological males. It will prohibit the practice of allowing biological females who identify as "men" to participate in all-male teams, leagues, divisions, or competitions. Public restrooms and other communal areas designated for use by "men" will remain male-only.

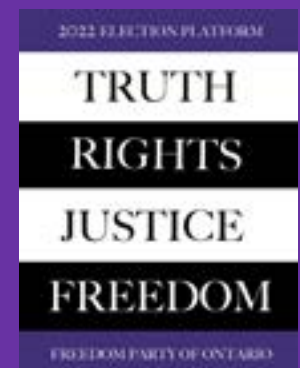
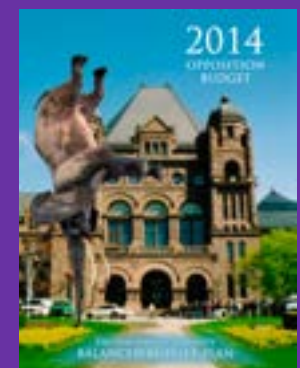
Consideration for Intersex Individuals

Intersex individuals - individuals who are neither biologically male (XX chromosomed) nor biologically female (XY chromosomed) exist. Though very few in number, as a matter of biology, their existence is undeniable. However, most intersex people have physical traits that are predominantly male or female, and they normally live their lives as biological males or biological females do. To make these proposals consistent with biological reality, we propose that intersex individuals should be accommodated in facilities and sports according to their most prominent biological traits, not according to psychological traits or chosen lifestyle. This will ensure that intersex individuals are not excluded from appropriate spaces, sports teams, competitions, or public life. This approach respects biological reality while providing necessary accommodations without compromising the integrity of female-only environments.

Did you know?

Times change. The important issues change. Unlike other parties, Freedom Party wants you to know what it has said in previous elections. You can read Freedom Party's previous election platforms at:

freedomparty.on.ca/archive





CONSENT AND GENDER

Consent is at the heart of individual freedom. No individual should be deprived of his or her life, liberty, or property without his or her consent.

The laws of Ontario and Canada include age-of-consent laws that set standards for the age at which an individual is no longer a minor and has the capacity to consent. They also include limits upon the kinds of decisions that anyone can make for a minor.

With respect to gender, Freedom Party's position is that no person should have the authority to make decisions about a minor's mind or body that are irreversible or potentially harmful. Such decisions, including decisions to undergo psychological interventions, pharmaceutical treatments, or surgeries cannot be made on behalf of anyone except oneself and, even then, only once one has reached the age of majority: 18 years of age.

Schools

Almost all students in Ontario's primary and secondary schools are minors. That being the case, a Freedom government will not allow gender theory in any part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education. Introducing such complex and potential-

ly life-altering concepts to minors, who are not yet equipped to make informed decisions, could lead to confusion, peer pressure, or psychologically harmful identity exploration.

A Freedom government will ensure that no school, teacher, school board, or educational official has the authority to initiate or endorse any medical or psychological service related to gender identity for students. This includes facilitating social transitions, pronoun changes, or any form of gender-affirming care.

A Freedom government will continue to support the teaching of biological sex as part of the science curriculum, ensuring students understand human biology, anatomy, the differences between male and female bodies. In addition, age-appropriate education on reproduction, including methods for preventing sexually transmitted diseases, should continue to be a part of the school curriculum. This education is vital for health literacy and personal safety.

A Freedom government will continue to require students to be tolerant and understanding with respect to sexual orientation. Schools will be an environment where all students feel safe and respected, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Healthcare

In line with our belief that minors cannot provide informed consent for life-altering decisions, a Freedom government will prohibit the counseling or recommendation, to minors, that they can or should undergo irreversible “gender-affirming” medical procedures such as hormone treatments and surgeries. Healthcare institutions and practitioners shall be prohibited from initiating medical treatments - like puberty blockers, hormones, or surgeries - on minors.

The purpose of such prohibitions is simple. They *preserve* for every informed, consenting adult the choice about whether to undergo such procedures or not.

Parents and Guardians

A Freedom government will require schools, teachers, and medical professionals to share with parents or guardians all information about their own children. Parents and guardians will not be deprived by schools, teachers, or medical professionals of any lawful decision-making authority that they do have with respect to their children.

The Freedom Party of Ontario believes in educational and healthcare systems in which the freedom of the individual is paramount, such that the protection of those those who lack the capacity to consent is a priority. Our policies aim to create a balanced approach, where age-appropriate education and healthcare is transparent, accountable, and responsible, ensuring that no child is subjected to irreversible or potentially harmful counselling or procedures.

“At the end of January, Danielle Smith, the premier of Alberta, announced a list of policy changes targeting transgender youth in the Canadian province, including a ban on hormonal treatment, puberty blockers and gender-confirmation surgery for children 15 years old and younger. The move marked the most restrictive rules on gender confirmation in the country.

“A few days later, Doug Ford – the Conservative premier of Ontario, and one of the most influential politicians in Canada – was asked whether his government intended to follow Smith’s policies. “No,” he told reporters. “We have a lot here, and we’re leaving everything alone.”

- The Guardian,
February 14, 2024



AN END TO EMERGENCY POWERS

The defence of every individual's freedom to make decisions for his or her self requires that we have laws that *defend* that freedom to choose. *Laws*, not edicts, declarations, or orders. In a democracy (*demos*: people, *kratos*: power), the *source* of a government's power is the people it serves. All of the legal powers a government has are *delegated* to it by the people it governs. In a democracy, a government has no legitimate authority to do that which, if done by one of the governed, would constitute a crime or other violation of an individual's life, liberty, or property.

The recent history of the leadership of Premier Doug Ford, particularly during the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, has demonstrated why the government's emergency powers - powers to make and enforce rules and commandments on the fly, without first debating and passing laws in the Ontario Legislature - must be *eliminated*.

The Ford government's decision to enforce lockdowns, close businesses deemed "non-essential", and restrict gatherings was a clear demonstration of how emergency powers can be used to curtail personal liberties and economic freedoms. These measures were

implemented with the stroke of a pen, without regard to the constitutional limits placed upon our governments by Canada's constitution, including the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; without the approval of the Legislature; without the making of *laws*:

- The government expanded police powers to enforce "public health" edicts, including the power to demand personal information from citizens.
- The mandate for mask-wearing in public and the implementation of vaccine passports (or, more generally, "digital IDs") infringed upon individual freedom and privacy. These orders were enforced as emergency measures, bypassing traditional legislative debate and public consent; bypassing, in short, democracy.
- The closure of schools, shifting to online learning, and the enforcement of mask policies in educational settings disrupted our childrens' learning and social interaction.

Ford Now Equating U.S. Tariffs with Pandemics

Premier Ford's recent comparison of former President Trump's threatened 25% tariff to a "pandemic" is alarming. His rhetoric suggests a willingness to misuse the term 'emergency' for political gain, further eroding trust in the government's ability to use emergency powers without violating individual freedom. If U.S. tariffs can be framed as emergencies - as opportunities to dispense with democratic law-making and arrogate to the Premier the power to rule - then what prevents future governments from using similar justifications for any policy they deem urgent?

The Rule of Law in Difficult Times

Democracy and the rule of law is most crucial *during* crises because times of crisis are times when popular pressure is most likely to lead a government to take actions that violate the lives, liberty, or property of individuals. Without emergency powers, governments in a time of crisis must work within existing legal frameworks, ensuring that any response to an emergency is measured, debated, and legally sound, thus protecting individuals from arbitrary or excessive government action.

By eliminating the government's ability to sideline the legislature, we reinforce public trust in our public institutions.

Freedom Party's Pro-democratic Plan

A Freedom government will repeal all legislative provisions that permit the provincial government, or a regional or municipal government, to exercise emergency powers. It will introduce reforms that ensure all government actions are subject to the full scrutiny of the legislative process, including public input, to defend individual in Ontario against the abuse of governmental power. It will restore and safeguard the freedom and democracy upon which our society is founded.

Politics

Premier Ford's 'shoulder to shoulder' comment about Trudeau annoys some Conservatives

Two CPC MPs said they were 'pissed off' by Doug Ford's remarks about Emergencies Act



Catherine Cullen - CBC News - Posted: Oct 19, 2022 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: October 19, 2022



Ontario Premier Doug Ford answers a reporter's question as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks on at Nokia's Canadian headquarters in Ottawa on Oct. 17, 2022. (Adrian Wylie/The Canadian Press)

On Monday, while Ford attended an unrelated media event in Ottawa with Trudeau, a reporter asked the premier whether he agreed with the federal government's decision to invoke the Emergencies Act.

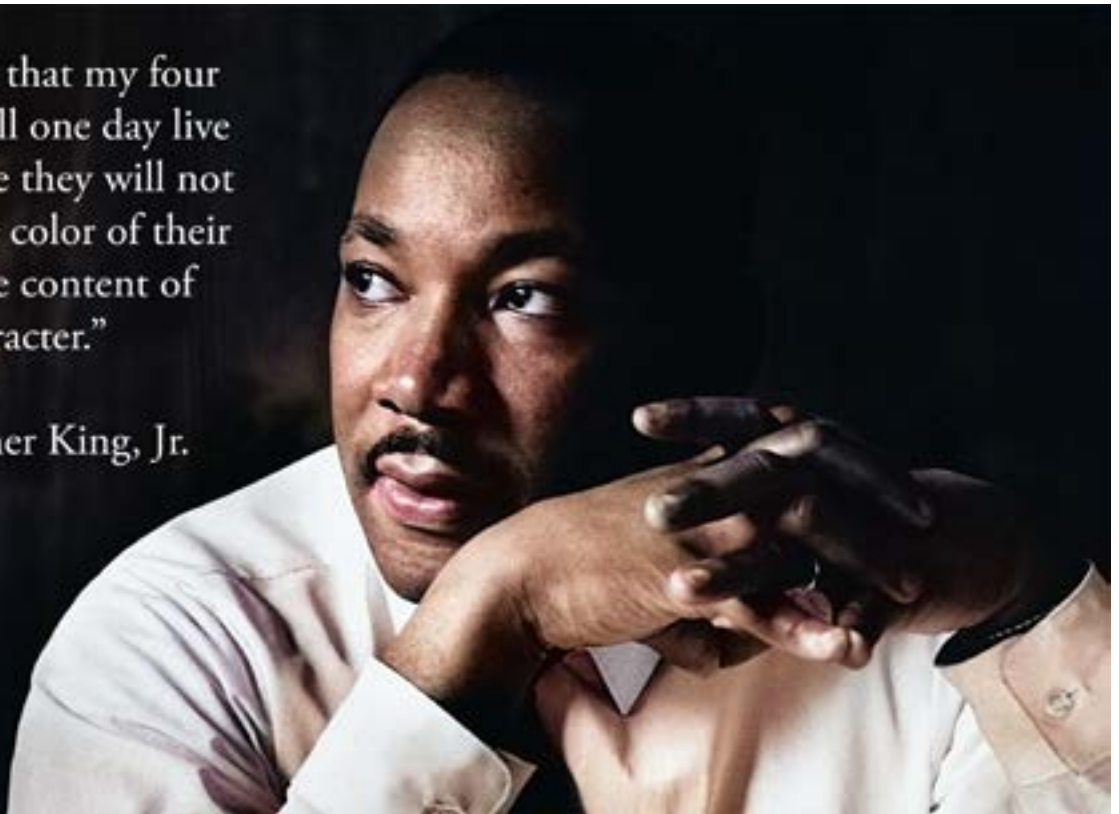
Ford responded that he "stood shoulder to shoulder with the prime minister" on that decision and described the protest's disruption of international trade and the lives of Ottawa residents as "unacceptable."

The public inquiry examining the use of the Emergencies Act began last week. It will deliver a report on whether the government was justified in triggering the never-before-used law to quell the anti-vaccine mandate protests that gripped Ottawa's downtown core in February and spread to some border crossings.

Some Conservative MPs are fuming over Doug Ford's comments supporting Prime...

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



MERIT OVER MANDATED DIVERSITY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) laws, policies, and programs necessarily make merit secondary to diversity quotas or targets. This can lead to the selection or promotion of individuals based on physical characteristics rather than competence, which ultimately harms the efficiency and fairness of our institutions and workplaces.

DEI initiatives are, *by design*, discriminatory against those not belonging to allegedly underrepresented “groups”. They intentionally mandate unequal treatment. They disregard individuality, instead seeing every individual as merely a member of a group, class, collective, or community. They make ability secondary to such things as one’s sex, or the colour of one’s skin.

By focusing on identity over individuality, DEI intentionally reduces people to their demographic checkboxes, fostering tokenism where individuals are selected to meet diversity quotas rather than for their unique contributions, thus reinforcing stereotypes rather than dismantling them.

Instead of bringing people together and encouraging them to look past their differences, DEI champions differences, to the point of creating or exacerbating divisions within communities. By design, it divides, to conquer.

Moreover, DEI programs are not free. They typically give rise to new and expensive make-work jobs such as officers of DEI. And, once those positions are created, those who hold the positions must continue to find lacks of diversity, equity, and inclusion with which to justify their jobs.

Mandatory DEI training or policies are coercive. They can even involve situations in which a person’s licence to practice will be taken from them if they do not undergo mental re-programming courses to make their views conform with DEI orthodoxy (we’re looking at you, Jordan Peterson). As a result, DEI stifles open discourse and freedom of expression, leading to oppressive environments where individuals self-censor or conform out of fear of retribution.

A Freedom government will completely remove all government-mandated DEI laws, policies, and pro-

grams from Ontario's public sector, educational institutions, governing bodies, and wherever government funding is involved. This includes dismantling quotas, diversity hiring practices, and mandatory training sessions.

A Freedom government will ensure that hiring, promotions, and resource allocation in the public sector are based purely on merit, skills, and performance. It will introduce legislation to guarantee that decisions are made with a focus on what individuals can contribute rather than what "group" they are deemed, by some, to belong to.

Public services will operate under a principle of neutrality towards alleged group membership. No priority will be given to any individual because of his or her race, age, sex, creed, or sexual orientation.

Ontario will be a society in which every individual can rise toward his or her potential based on his or her skills, hard work, and dedication. By eliminating DEI mandates, we will foster an environment where true equality of opportunity reigns, the personal achievements of individuals are celebrated, and *collectivism* - on the basis of such things as age, sex, race, and sexual orientation - *finds no home or support in Ontario's laws or government.*

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SAFEGUARDING OUR AIR, WATER AND LAND

The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we grow are fundamental to our health and well-being. Ensuring these essentials are free from harmful contaminants is not just an environmental issue; it's a matter of public health, economic stability, and the preservation of our quality of life for generations to come. Contaminated air can lead to respiratory diseases, polluted water can cause a myriad of health problems, and tainted soil can compromise our food supply.

Air Quality and Transparency

We will establish an independent agency to monitor air contaminants, ensuring transparency about the substances we inhale. All environmental data will be accessible to the public, fostering accountability. Any aerial or ground dispersal of substances will be monitored to prevent the public's exposure to contaminants.

Water Quality and Purity

The province's tap-water systems ought to be systems for the supply only of water. For many people tap-water is the only water they ever will drink. Those who drink tap-water ought not to be forced into a pack-

age-deal, in which - if they drink tap water - they must also consume substances other than water. A Freedom government will put an end to the fluoridation of tap water.

The Surface Treatment of Public Roadways

A Freedom government will require a publicly-released account of the origin and content of the liquids sprayed on Ontario's roads. If, as in some other jurisdictions, road spraying is being used as a way to dispose of harmful waste (e.g., radioactive fracking waste-water is sprayed on roads in some jurisdictions, such as Pennsylvania), the use of such liquids immediately will be discontinued and banned.

Conclusion

The Freedom Party of Ontario is committed to a future where pollutants and harmful waste, like all environmental threats, are managed with the utmost responsibility, safeguarding our province for generations to come. Our goal is an Ontario where transparency, safety, and environmental stewardship facilitate the healthy pursuit of happiness in Ontario.



JUSTICE, POST-COVID

Since March of 2020, Ontario's government, and the various entities to which it delegates authority or provides money (including local "officers of health", hospitals, and professional governing bodies), have abused the power of government, all in the name of "public health". Businesses have been forced to close, and many of them have ceased to exist. People were subjected to de facto house arrest via "stay at home orders". With no physical evidence that mRNA injections were both safe and effective, politicians took it upon themselves to act as though they were medically trained, and declared that injections were safe and effective for everyone young and old, pregnant or pre-pubescent. With absolutely no evidence that "face coverings" prevent the transmission of Covid 19, the wearing

of "face coverings" was mandated (because it was the gesture, and not the efficacy that mattered, one could even use a tea towel, a Halloween mask, or some nylons as a face covering). Orders were issued against singing, against attending church, and even against playing hockey outdoors.

Non-compliance with these politically-motivated efforts to mandate conformity were dealt with harshly. People were arrested and charged. In the public sector, non-compliance typically resulted in unpaid leaves or dismissals. Officers were stripped of rank. Physicians who dared not to advise - and to treat their patients - in accordance with the government's official talking points were

threatened by their governing body with de-licensure. Public venues such as restaurants were permitted to deny entry and service to anyone who could not provide documentary evidence of having taken the mRNA injection and boosters.

To the extent that the Ontario government and its empowered organizations have wronged people and can reverse the wrong, they must now do so. Accordingly, a Freedom government will:

- Immediately release from jail or prison anyone currently serving time for the violation of a provincial, municipal, or health authority Covid mandate, regulation or directive. Any such charges will be dropped immediately. All records of their violations shall be expunged from provincial and municipal records. All will be issued a formal written apology from the Crown in Right of Ontario. It will be an offence for employers, landlords, and businesses to discriminate against someone who was charged or convicted of a Covid-related law, regulation, or directive;
- Require the dropping of all charges, and the dismissal of all proceedings, against any public sector employee or regulated professional who - because he or she refused to take the mRNA injection, or a “booster”, or verbally objected to mandatory Covid vaccinations or mandatory masking policies - has been subjected to legal proceedings in our courts or administrative bodies, or has been stripped of their rank or licence.
- Require immediate restoration of any regulated membership, licence or permit that was revoked due to the violation of a Covid law, regulation, or directive. This includes any physician or nurse who was de-licenced or suspended for providing warranted Covid-related medical service of which their respective colleges disapproved;
- Reinstate, with backpay, all public-sector employees - including hospital employees - who, having refused to take a mRNA injection or a “booster”, were dismissed or placed on leave;
- Require all fines collected in the province - whether by the province, by regional municipalities, or by local governments or police - immediately to be repaid to the individuals who were fined for violating Covid-specific laws, regulations, or directives such as laws against peaceful assembly, or against failing to wear a mask. All records of the identities and contact information of those fined will be destroyed;
- Require all property seized from those who demonstrated against Covid-related business closures or restrictions, mandatory vaccination, proof of vaccination, or mask mandates (including demonstrators at Ottawa, Toronto, and Windsor) - by Ontario or any of its municipalities, or by their respective police forces - immediately to be returned or replaced;
- Introduce a law prohibiting elected officials and their delegates from vouching for the safety or effectiveness of any given medical procedure, medical device, or medicine. The provision of advice about safety and effectiveness is medical advice and should be left to licenced physicians and nurses, who have the knowledge, skill, and duty to tailor their advice to the particular and differing needs of each patient; and
- Introduce legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of vaccination status.



LIFE. LIBERTY. PROPERTY.

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