

NDP nominates Michael McMahon as candidate for Prince Edward-Hastings

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Michael McMahon, a high school teacher since 1976 and now a Curriculum Co-ordinator with the Hastings and Prince Edward Board of Education, has been chosen as the New Democratic Party Candidate for Prince Edward-Hastings in the next federal election.

Riding President Bill Bailey noted a Parliamentary crisis had been averted a few days before, making the nomination meeting less urgent. He praised the NDP members of parliament declaring, "Jack Layton and the other MPs actually accomplished something for Canada ... They were constantly talking about things for Canadians."

Michael McMahon's acceptance speech was a carefully crafted presentation, filled with information about the policy on which he will run when the federal election is called.

Plunging immediately into economics, he pointed out, "A few decades ago, government revenue was evenly divided between business and personal income tax. Years of electing representatives of business interests to parliament has resulted in today's ratio of 25 per cent business and 75 per

cent personal tax revenue to support the budget. Were it not for the New Democrats, Martin would have cut business's share of taxes even further.

"The cycle of cutting taxes and then weakening government programs to balance the budget is a Liberal and Conservative national policy. As a result, 20 per cent of our children live in abject poverty and tens of thousands of Canadians are homeless. Doctors are getting scarce and health care is deteriorating. Education is becoming less accessible. Infrastructure is crumbling. Agriculture is in crisis. Our military is poorly equipped."

He spoke about housing, daycare, education, health, global warming, sensible vehicles, alternate energy and pollution.

"Laissez faire urban development permanently removes prime farmland from production and only profits the developer while penalizing our society well into the future," he said.

He concluded, "I look forward to working for the improvement of our cities and agricultural communities as well as the natural environment on which we all depend. I look forward to re-connecting our government to our people."

Mr. McMahon came to this area in 1976 as a teacher in North Hastings High School in Bancroft. That same year he married Carol from Plymouth, England. He taught in Bancroft for 15 years.

For three years in the early 1980s, the couple left Canada and Michael taught



■ Michael McMahon will represent the NDP in the next federal election.

native children in Papua, New Guinea.

In the early 1990s Michael and Carol moved to Belleville where he taught at Centennial Secondary School until 1995, then at Moira Secondary School until 2001. At that point he was recruited into the board office where he remains Curriculum Co-ordinator for Grades K to 12.

McMahon, Michael