Reform Party wants justice system changes

Halton-Peel Reform Party candidate, Dick MacDuffee, says it is time to restore balance to the criminal justice system, and refers to Reform's proposals which include specific amendments to the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"I hear constituents of this riding saying the justice system protects criminals better than it does law-abiding citizens and victims. It has to change," MacDuffee said. "Restoring the balance in the criminal justice system will be a major theme of Reform's election campaign."

Restoring balance in the criminal justice system a major theme

At a luncheon meeting in Toronto Thursday, Reform Party leader Preston Manning, along with several other Reform candidates, including MacDuffee, unveiled portions of the Reform Party's criminal justice reform platform.

MacDuffee says that recent interpretations by the courts of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms have given the impression that the rights of criminals are more respected and protected than those of law-abiding citizens.

He cited the case of a Quebec rape victim whose attempt to get a Quebec court to compel her attacker to take a blood test (to determine whether he was HIV positive) was turned down. The judge ruled that the Crown had no right to intervene on behalf of the woman, and that granting the request would compromise the right of the accused to privacy and security of the person, under the Charter.

"Parliament should send a very strong signal to our judges and lawyers by amending the Charter so that where the rights of a victim of crime and the perpetrator conflict, it should be the rights of the victim that prevail in Canadian law," says MacDuffee.



RESULTS UNOFFICIAL



Reform Party of Canada Halton-Peel candidate, Dick MacDuffee (centre) officially opened his Georgetown campaign office last Wednesday, kicking off his federal election campaign. The mandated federal election this fall is expected any day. Assisting Mr. MacDuffee with the ribbon cutting is, Joan McLeish (left), District Organizer, his wife Kay, and Maurice Carter, Reform Party Executive Councilor. At rear are other supporters. The campaign office is located at 360 Guelph Street, Unit 39, in the plaza on the corner of Delrex Blvd. and Guelph St., telephone 873-8822. Office hours at present are photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW Monday to Friday, from 3-7 p.m.





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