

Chudleigh pushing Reed to go after federal tax cuts

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh fires off letter to MP Julian Reed urging him to pursue tax cuts in Feb. budget

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

It may be past Christmas but Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said he knows what gift Canadians really want — federal tax cuts.

So he has fired off a letter to Halton MP Julian Reed asking him to do his best to ensure they appear in the Liberal government's February budget.

A 20 per cent federal income tax reduction over five years would create more than two million jobs across the country, said Mr. Chudleigh.

And it would make Canada's workers competitive with those south of the border.

"We're the highest taxed country in the G7," he said. "There's no question we need tax cuts."

He noted that only Canadians earning in excess of \$100,000 annually are on par with the United States.

And anyone earning less than that "is really being stuck," said Mr. Chudleigh.

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MPP TED CHUDLEIGH

"The vast majority are."

And governments don't lose money when they slash taxes. Instead, the extra cash is funnelled straight back into a rejuvenated economy.

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Mr. Chudleigh cited a current business boom in Florida as an example, saying its lack of income tax has made it a magnet for migrating corporations.

And the feds have the money to deliver the goods, he pointed out.

"They're sitting on a huge government surplus.

"They can cut taxes right now." But it may not be enough.

Though he predicted cuts will be featured in Finance Minister Paul Martin's upcoming budget, they

could come into effect at the start of 2001 instead of this summer.

And the feds may not bite the bullet and deliver the full 20 per cent the Harris government is calling for.

"I'm afraid it won't be soon enough or big enough," he said.

If it isn't, Canada could end up lagging behind the good times inspired by a stateside economic boom, said Mr. Chudleigh.

"You've got to make hay while the sun shines and the sun is shining brightly on the U.S. right now," he said.

"You don't want it to taper off. It's a delicate thing, managing an economy."

But the signs are all there for increased prosperity.

And even if a stalled European market takes a header, a revived economy in Asia will help offset the drain.

"This is the longest run in American history of a bull economy," said Mr. Chudleigh.

"It's almost unprecedented."

He encouraged Canadian residents to write their MPs to lobby for federal tax cuts.

In its first term of government, the Tories slashed taxes by 30 per cent.

A further 20 per cent cut has been promised this term.

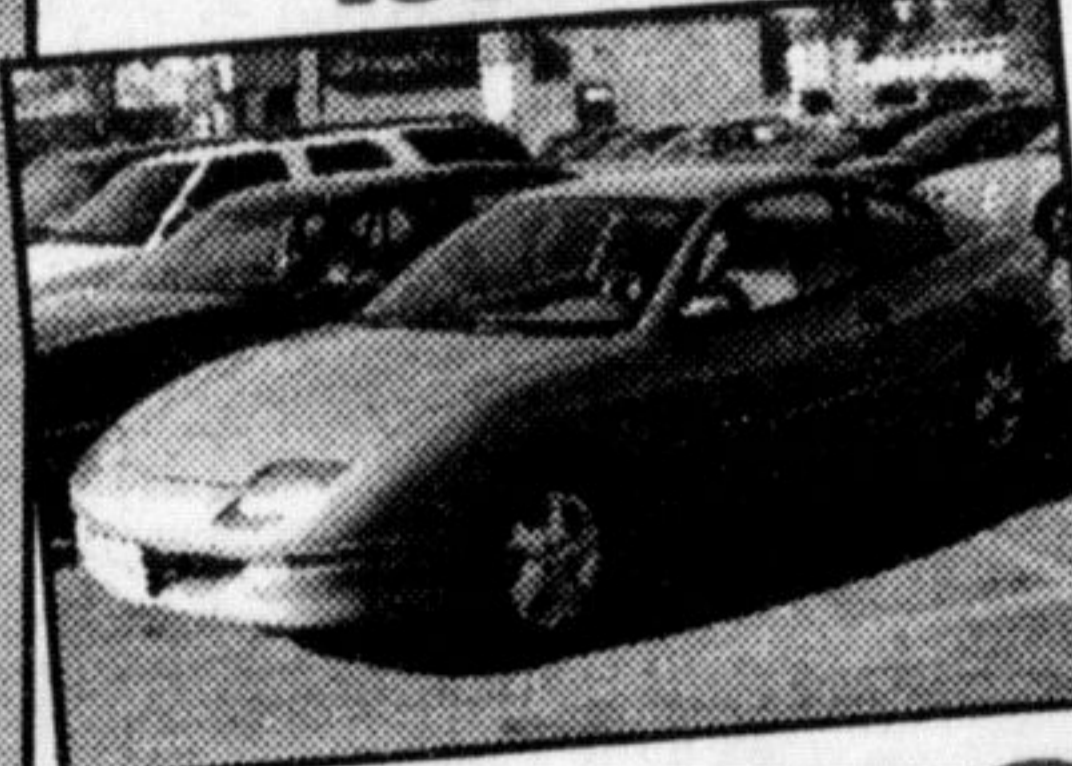
That has led to the creation of 642,000 new jobs in the province, Mr. Chudleigh said.

At the same time, provincial revenues have been fattened from \$36.4 billion in 1995 to \$43.4 billion in 1999.

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