

## ▼ Recall movement

## Backhouse defends anti-recall group, Ramsey against critics

By DAVID PLUG

Free Press staff writer

Former mayor John Backhouse says the Recall Ramsey campaign is getting personal, as predicted.

In a news release, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says they are investigating whether Mr. Backhouse was compensated to co-host the Premier's Summit on Northern Jobs and Development.

Mr. Backhouse, co-chair of the new pro-Paul Ramsey group, says his reputation won't be tarnished by the attempt to connect 'a money trail' from him to the NDP government.

"They are going to pick up every stone and see if there's a bogeyman under it. This is starting to be a witch-hunt. I will put my reputation and my performance up against any of my critics and I think that the people of this city know that," says the former mayor.

"Already it is doing what I said last Monday which is dividing this community...My God, I wish we could devote our energies to more produc-



**Citizens for Local Democracy Backhouse**

tive activities," says Mr. Backhouse, co-chair of Citizens for Local Democracy.

He says he has made no secret of his NDP sympathies but that he would oppose a recall of an MLA, regardless of party, based on the reasoning of the anti-Ramsey group Active Citizens for Democracy.

For its part, the Taxpayers Federation released a report of expenses to show that it has not contributed to the local recall proponents. The report shows total revenues raised to October 31 as \$19,825 with expenditures on recall of



**Canadian Taxpayers Federation Lanigan**

\$11,424. Another \$14,879 is estimated as future expenses. Legal fees and travel costs are expected to swallow more than half the expenses.

"Joy MacPhail's contention that we have spent 'hundreds of thousands of dollars' is as credible as her surgery waiting-list statistics," says federation director Troy Lanigan.

"We've been very clear with our intent and the resources we have committed to assist the two northern recall campaigns. Now it's time for the government and the NDP to do the same."



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