

# ONTARIO PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ALLIANCE

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** OPERA Member Groups  
Adherents & Supporters

**FROM:** R.A. (Bob) Fowler  
OPERA Secretary

**DATE:** March 14, 2005

**C.C.** Ontario Cabinet Ministers & MPPs: Rural Municipal Councils: Farm Associations

**RE:** Information Bulletins for Ontario Landowners:

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Over the past 50 years various agencies of the provincial government, irrespective of political brand, have created and implemented a bewildering labyrinth of policies and protocols that impact ownership of private property. The number and complexity of these proscriptions is exceeded only by the range of innovative titles under which they are introduced and the arbitrary process by which they are applied.

The authors and lobby group supporters of this unending torrent of land use dictates invariably claim that ecological necessity and the public good inspire their efforts to transfer control of private property to the state by regulation. Between the two major World Wars of the last century the same objective was pursued in Eastern Europe where state-sponsored genocide rather than manipulative rhetoric was the preferred methodology in consigning landowner assets to the managerial incompetence of government bureaucrats. Whether by statute or by firing squad, history teaches the results of unilateral government intrusion onto the land and into the lives and livelihood of ordinary citizen is always the same. Social and economic chaos concealed behind a decaying curtain of state subsidies and welfare entitlements operated on and off stage by an ever expanding army of so-called public servants. Welcome to tomorrow in the rear view mirror!

OPERA Landowner Information Bulletins speak to widespread government disdain for common law rights of ownership and suggest that regulating private property is like shearing sheep – its wise to stop when you get down to the skin! Since the right of land ownership was removed from the Canada's rehabilitated Constitution and was never included in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we again appeal to the Ontario government to legislate such protection for all its citizens. This is an initiative left to provincial discretion under the British North America Act, the template for our federal Constitution. To accept the obligation and seize the opportunity of this historic invitation is not only within the provincial mandate – it is a clear duty of the incumbent Queen's Park administration.

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*“to protect, and entrench in law, landowner rights and responsibilities”*