

ONTARIO PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ALLIANCE

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On recommendation of its Advisory Committee the Ontario Property and Environmental Rights Alliance (OPERA) will no longer press for land ownership rights only. Instead, under a Mission Statement entitled “*Seeking Government Transparency and Accountability*”, our coalition will henceforth function as a public service entity to research, condense and circulate government policies, protocols and regulations that affect Ontario citizens and the provincial economy at large.

Founded in 1994 at Trent University as a non-profit coalition, OPERA was originally organized to protect landowner rights. But, over the following eighteen years, Ontario taxpayers witnessed unprecedented growth in the number and influence of government subsidized lobby groups dedicated to “natural heritage” at the expense of “owner recognition”. In the same period other private sector groups evolved to demand unspecified “property” rights, a less definitive term than rights and responsibilities of land ownership espoused by OPERA.

In these circumstances land ownership legislation under the present Ontario government may be long delayed and OPERA has therefore approved a new mandate and hence a broadened range of research objectives.

OPERA does not solicit or accept government financial assistance. Funding for the substantial communication costs of the coalition’s enhanced public service program will therefore depend, as usual, on the collective support and generosity of private sector corporations and individual donors.

R.A. (Bob) Fowler, OPERA Secretary