



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

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NEWS RELEASE

Subject: **Clean Water Act doesn't provide cost recovery for farmers**

Guelph, February 2006. While supportive of locally-developed source water plans for the province's watersheds, the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is not supportive of Ontario's proposed *Bill 43: Clean Water Act, 2005*.

"Landowners have no guarantees that they will be consulted when a source water protection plan is developed," said John Kikkert, president of the CFFO. "In addition, the draft act allows municipalities to prohibit normal farm practices without reimbursing farmers for the costs of changing their farming practices."

Kikkert's comments were made following the CFFO's adoption of a position statement on the *Clean Water Act, 2005*. Delegates from the CFFO's 22 district associations adopted the statement after expressing numerous reservations with the legislation. The legislation is the province's attempt to ensure that both municipal growth and water protection can take place through empowering local communities to minimize or eliminate any threats to source water.

"We would like to see the proposed legislation changed so that the Ministry of Environment is prohibited from approving any source water protection plans that do not include an assessment of the costs of implementation and a defined budget for the implementation," said Clarence Nywening, a CFFO vice-president. "If the public wants higher water standards than currently provided by acceptable, normal farming practices, then the public should be willing to pay farmers for their additional costs."

Farmers who are concerned about the proposed legislation can make their voice heard by directing comments to Greg Mouchian, Policy Analyst, Strategic Policy Branch, 135 St. Clair Ave. West, 11th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5. Written comments need to reference the FBR registry number (RA05E0022). The 60-day comment period closes on February 20.

For the CFFO position statement on the Clean Water Act, 2005, log on to www.christianfarmers.org and proceed to the "policies and issues" button. Background information on the proposed legislation can be found at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm>.

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