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## **Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**

5653 Hwy 6 North, RR5 Guelph Ontario N1H 6J2

Voice (519) 837-1620 Fax (519) 824-1835

E-mail: [cffomail@christianfarmers.org](mailto:cffomail@christianfarmers.org)

Web site: [www.christianfarmers.org](http://www.christianfarmers.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Subject: CFFO applauds province's preservation of Pickering farmland**

Guelph, November 2005. The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario applauds the provincial government's recent move to preserve prime farmland within the City of Pickering.

The Ontario government recently introduced new legislation that, if passed, would ensure that the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve will be set aside permanently for farming. The land in question was expropriated years ago by the province and is being sold back to original landowners and tenant farmers, with the provision that conservation easements on the properties will be agreed to by the purchaser. The City of Pickering held the easements but recently removed two-thirds of them without consulting the province.

The Ontario government introduced the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act as a result of the City of Pickering's actions. The Act has two main goals: to ensure that all existing conservation easements on the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve are held in perpetuity; and that the easements previously held and released by the City of Pickering are reinstated.

"We're pleased the province has taken decisive action on preserving this parcel of quality farmland," said John Kikkert, the CFFO's President. "Our organization has long been in the forefront of advocating that our best farmland have strong protection from development pressure. We need to take a long-term view regarding our best farmland and continue to demonstrate the kind of leadership displayed by the provincial government."

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*For more information, please contact:*

John Kikkert	CFFO President	(905) 957-7766
Jenny Denhartog	CFFO Vice-President	(519) 848-2283
Henry Stevens	CFFO Vice-President	(519) 343-5883
Elbert van Donkersgoed	Strategic Policy Director	(519) 837-1620