



*Long-Term Thinking  
for Today's Issues*

## **Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Subject: **PRIVATE GAS AND OIL WELLS NEED APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS**

GUELPH, Ontario - The Provincial Council of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) recently took the position that landowners with private, low-pressure oil and gas wells are unduly burdened by the enforcement of existing regulations, which are geared towards high-pressure wells.

According to Bruce Vander Molen, President of the Haldimand-Norfolk Christian Farmers Association, "In certain parts of our province, farmers and landowners are being hit hard by regulations that are inappropriate for the wells they operate on their own properties and for their own use. And in some cases, individuals are ordered to plug a derelict well, at their own expense, that they have never operated or benefited from."

In response to concerns raised by farmers in the Haldimand-Norfolk area, the CFFO Position Statement includes a number of recommendations, including a moratorium on "orders to plug" until the conflicts surrounding the issue have been resolved, and the development of regulations more appropriate to the nature of these low-pressure wells. Where plugging of an abandoned or derelict well is needed, the original company that leased the well should be called upon to cover the costs, or, if that is not possible, financial assistance should be put in place.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources has its Abandoned Works Program that could play a role here, or funding could be sourced through the Environmental Farm Plan," stated John Kikkert, President of the CFFO. "This issue needs to be dealt with, but we also need to be sure that the health and safety of Canadians and the environment are not put at risk."

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Attachment: **Private Oil and Gas Wells in Ontario**

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