



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

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STEWARDSHIP AND URBAN WASTE DON'T MIX IN RURAL ONTARIO

GUELPH, Ontario - Members of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) reiterated their commitment to good stewardship principles when debating the issue of urban waste ending up in rural Ontario's countryside,

"Urban centers should start taking care of the waste they generate within their own area," stated John Scheurwater, a farmer from the Grand Valley area. "There seems to be a sense that rural Ontario is open for urban waste, and that urban centers are entitled to bring their refuge to our back yards."

Henry Stevens, CFFO Vice-President, noted that, "This statement was originally developed because of our position that we need to be good stewards of Ontario's farmland. We have concerns about the long term repercussions for farmland and watersheds when urban waste is diverted to landfill sites in rural areas."

Trucking garbage to rural areas is admittedly a relatively cheap way of getting rid of it. "But we need to make it clear that, just because dumping garbage on farmland is the cheapest form of disposal doesn't mean that it should be done that way," said Lorne Small, CFFO Director.

Even though the financial cost of alternative waste disposal, in particular incineration, was recognized, participants are confident that modern technology can provide additional benefits, such as power generation, in a clean, environmentally friendly fashion.

Provincial Council members adopted a position statement that deals with several aspects of waste disposal: keeping urban waste within the generating municipality; implementing a combination of levies and incentives to encourage at-source waste reduction (reducing packaging, increasing recyclables, etc.); and increasing accountability and transparency for waste-related contracts that have the potential to have health and/or environmental risks associated with them.

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