



Long-Term Thinking  
for Today's Issues

## Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

7660 Mill Rd., RR4 Guelph Ontario N1H 6J1

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)

### **Clean Water Act – Compensation, Rewards and Responsibility**

#### **A position statement supporting the CFFO Vision for Sustainable, Environmentally Friendly Farms**

**Whereas** CFFO has endorsed the concept of mandatory locally developed source water protection plans in watersheds across Ontario (policy statement March 24, 2004)

**Whereas** Justice O'Connor recommended in his report on the Walkerton disaster that *"the provincial government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, should establish a system of cost-share incentives for water protection projects on farms"* (recommendation #16)

**Whereas** maintaining the public good of safe drinking water is desired by all members of society, yet the costs of carrying that burden may not be evenly distributed and are uncertain at this time.

**Whereas** there may be situations in which farmers may be required to give up or restrict the use of productive land in order to maintain source water protection. Farmers negatively impacted by this legislation require some form of compensation for these lost or restricted assets.

**Whereas** situations may occur in which farmers may be required to maintain a higher standard than acceptable normal farm practices provide due to public desire, resulting in a financial burden to the farmer.

#### **Therefore be it resolved**

**That** the CFFO demand full compensation when the implications of the Clean Water Act are revealed. The value of full compensation must be determined by an independent third party, using guidelines developed in consultation with agriculture.

**That** Clean Water Act policies are based on the wholistic definition of sustainability, namely that they consider the environmental, the social and the economic impacts of their policies.

**That** the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program be extended beyond 2011, and that it be adequately funded for on-farm projects.

**That** the principle of long-term financial compensation be based within a framework that rewards responsible action taken on the part of the farmer.

**That** the CFFO believes that the development of a framework of environmental goods and services be developed and maintained in order for farmers to get a fair return for their land, labour and equipment that is put to use providing public goods.

**That** all segments of society, whether urban or rural, should share in the costs and responsibilities of improving source water quality

**That** safe harbour agreements be developed for farmers to protect themselves from future liability concerns regarding the Clean Water Act.

Adopted by  
CFFO Provincial Council  
January 28, 2009