

PROPERTY RIGHTS

AND FREEDOM

Everyone owns *property* and everyone is conscious of such ownership. Phrases such as 'your boat', 'my car', 'his house', are evidence that possession of such items is commonplace, and taken for granted.

Yet most people never stop to think of the importance of their *right* to own property. Even though they may highly *value* certain things they own, it would not occur to most that the *right* to own property is their *only means of survival*.

Any prudent individual, given the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will, in the exercise of such rights, come into the ownership of property. The important thing here is not the *character* of the item(s) owned, as this would vary from person to person; the important thing is having the *right to own*.

At present, this right is greatly threatened. Our new Canadian Constitution refers *not* to 'life, liberty, and *property*', but rather to 'life, liberty,' and something called 'security of the person'. It should be clear that this last phrase is redundant, since anyone who has a right to life and liberty *already has* 'security of the person'. But even more disquieting is the continuation of the same sentence as follows: '...and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice'. In other words, your rights are not absolute but may be legislated away by government.

If the government wants your property, all they have to do is pass a law. (over

Freedom Party

The ways that governments can violate our property rights are so numerous that they boggle the imagination. In Ontario, they might include any one of the *1,016 powers of entry* (into your property), only 70 of which are subject to limitations as to time, only 88 of which require prior notice, and only 22 of which require proper identification by the entrant. They might include *rent control* legislation, which not only forces the landlord to subsidize the tenant, but *reduces the value of his property*. Or they might include one of the many *government regulations* that can constitute an infringement of an individual's right to run his business as he sees fit, and that can impose costs which reduce the value of such a business.

When a small family bakery in Kemptville Ontario, which had been serving that community for over a century, was visited by government inspectors, the proprietor was ordered to (a) switch over to metric, (b) wrap all bread, and (c) tag and date all products (i.e., 'best before...'). The *owner's* protests that all his baked goods were always sold the same day were ignored; the regulators were adamant and he was given a deadline for compliance.

So who really 'owns' the Kemptville bakery? Who really has the *right of choice* when it comes to deciding how that bakery should be run?

Freedom Party believes that the *purpose of government* is to *protect* your freedom of choice, *not* to restrict it.

The right to *keep, use, buy, sell, mortgage, rent, give away, leave to heirs*, etc., are just *some* of the numerous aspects that we associate with the right to own property. All these aspects of ownership are now under attack by governments.

Freedom Party believes that the foundation of *personal liberty and choice* is the concept of *private property*, and the right to fully exercise ownership of such property. If you agree, we're looking for your support. After all, freedom of choice is what we're all about! --- especially when it comes to your property!

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Freedom Party of Ontario is founded on the principle (1) *that each individual has the right to his or her own life, liberty and property*, (2) *that to preserve these rights it is essential that no individual or group initiate physical force or fraud*.