

# PROPERTY RIGHTS

## And Freedom

Everyone owns **property** and everyone is conscious of such ownership. Phrases such as "your boat", "my car", and "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 their 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, our right to private property has already been greatly infringed upon. It continues to be greatly threatened, particularly since there are no guaranteed protections of property rights in law. For example, our relatively 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, our rights are not absolute, but conditional. They can be legislated away by government.

If the government wants your property, all it has to do is pass a law.

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# 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 over-1000 powers of entry (into private property), with fewer than 100 of them subject to limitations as to time, requirement of prior notice, or requirement of 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. 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. Or, they might include taxation --- or outright expropriation.

**Freedom Party** believes that the purpose of government is to protect individual 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 of these aspects of ownership continue to be 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. Property rights are, after all, our "enabling" rights; without them, how can we possibly exercise any of our other rights? The answer is, we can't.

Private property rights are the key to every other human right. They are the necessary foundation to a free market, to sensible environmental pollution policies, to the stability of an economy, and to the very existence of individual freedom itself.

## FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

P.O. Box 2214, Stn. 'A',  
LONDON, Ontario N6A 4E3

(519) 433-8612

**Freedom Party** is founded on the principle that:

Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property.

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