

## **Public Input from Blue Ribbon Panel Property Rights (BRPPR) Open House in Kanata on March 9, 2017.**



MPP Jack MacLaren, Chairman of the BRPPR, at an open house meeting in Kanata on March 9, 2017

There were approximately 38 people, keen on property rights, in the audience.

### **Input from the audience covered the following topics:**

Focus on “Land Ownership”  
Bundle of rights

Individual prosperity needs to drive communal prosperity. This is the key to wealth in Ontario and Canada. Key Learning is money brings prosperity

Property Rights have been slowly eroded, often people don't even realize that it has happened

Stick together and stand up for our rights.  
We have been conditioned not to say “no” to government but you can say NO and win.

Example: One landowner built a fire route across his property after being told he could not do it. The landowner was proven to be right in the end.

People are receptive to dialogue/change

Everyone experiences high Hydro bills and taxes

Ontario is a good example of how to kill prosperity. It is now a “have not” province

Constitutions (Magna Carta, BNA Act etc.) were created to nurture prosperity. The original intent has become overshadowed. The good intentions are now becoming a slave to regulations from overreaching bureaucracy.

Example: Kids can no longer sell Kool-Aid or worms on the side of the road

Establish a Ministry of Property Rights

Tasks to include jurying all current legislation and new legislation for their impact on property rights.

Parliamentary Watchdogs are not good enough because they have no clout.

Education is key to what property rights are and what is currently wrong

Property Rights Education in primary and secondary schools.

School children are bombarded with environmental Armageddon. They should be taught property rights as well, for a more balanced view. They are our future leaders

Property Rights Education of the Judiciary

Property Rights are the basis for prosperity in Ontario

Lawyers are not currently being taught that Property Rights come from the Magna Carta

Property Rights Education of the Public

Example: People think they have the right to come onto designated wetland on private property to view a bird but they do not have that right

Property Rights Education of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) employees

The employees have to notify landowners before they come onto their property when doing their job

Judiciary needs to be independent and focused on change

The attitudes of some police and judiciary 10-15 years ago were that there were “degrees of Property Rights”. In more recent times the judiciary has made it clear that police need a warrant or permission of the owner to come on private property

Urbanites do not understand the impacts of infringement on rural folks property

Example—A designation of provincially significant wet land and identification of species at risk can mean the landowner cannot build a garage or a sugar shack

How do we convince condo owners of the need for Property Rights?

Some condo boards do have rules such as how many chairs can be on the balcony

Property includes not just land, includes your ability to earn cash to trade the value of your work for food, a car etc.

People understand collateral

Carbon Tax takes money, property, and wealth

Highest Hydro rates in North America, takes our wealth

Need simpler and easier to understand Official Plans.

Examples: Some Official Plans are 1800 pages long and there are 500,000 regulations in Toronto

Government is too big.

Use of Social Media to spread the Property Rights message

Town Halls in Universities

Some universities have Young PC groups or other politically active associations. Our future leaders will come from universities

“Snitch Lines” are causing grief for neighbours.

One phone call from an anonymous source can bring down a “Goliath” of government on a property owner. If the issue goes to court the property owner likely has limited resources to fight appeals against the charges, laid by Government Ministries or NGO’s with an unending supply of money

The Battle for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party (PC) is Urban versus Rural.

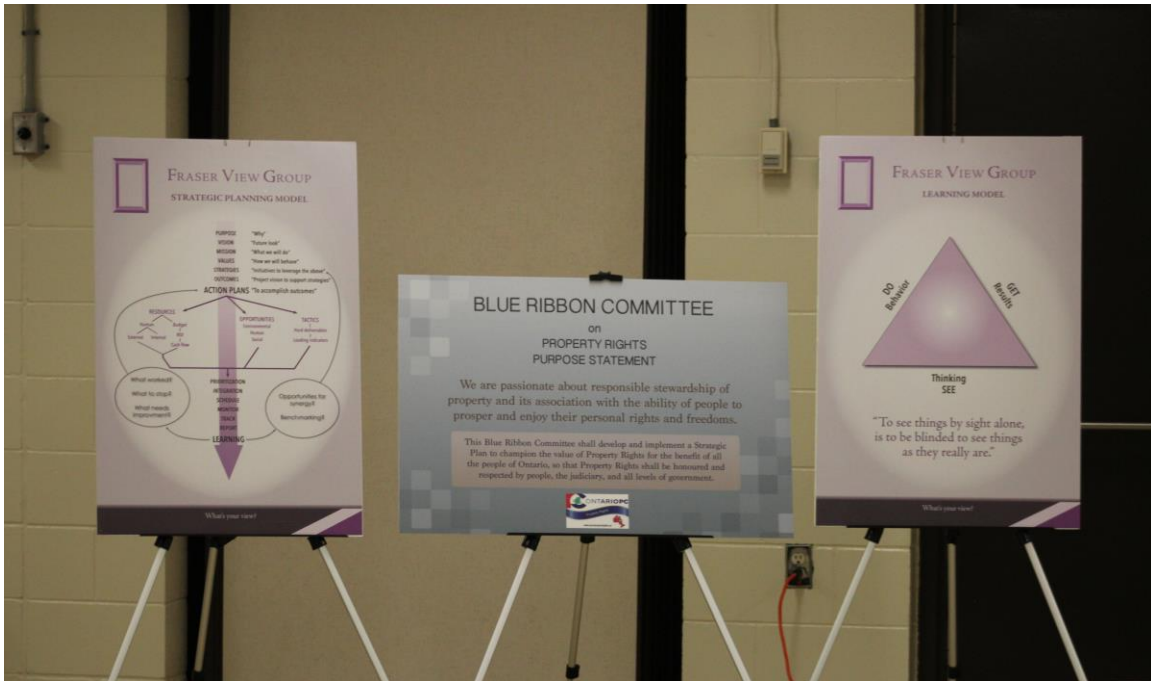
The PC Party is mainly rural but the majority of votes come from urban ridings

PC Party is actively engaging new Canadians who have come to Canada because it is the best country in the world.

We live in a Democracy and Government serves Democracy. We need to be informed to make a stance.

We can directly influence local Municipal government by educating them about Property Rights. The Municipal Council members are our neighbours.

Example: 165 municipalities said No to selling Hydro One but the Provincial Government did it anyway



The BRPPR Purpose Statement surrounded by the models used to derive it.

## E-Mails received after the Blue Ribbon Panel Property Rights (BRPPR) Open House in Kanata

**“Subject:** Re: Property Rights.....getting more relatable

Would you like to live in a province where:

- If you rent your home to the wrong folks you could lose it.
- You could lose your business based on an anonymous complaint.
- Your property can be rezoned without your knowledge halving its value.
- Etc.
- Etc.

You already do. We need help finding solutions to ensure none of these examples happens to you or someone you love.

I don't know your stories like you do but I guess you could pull a cross section of the kind of pain folks have experienced and summarize it here.

Regards,

**“Subject:** Re: Property Rights.....solutions??

Turning my attention to what might be part of the solution. I understand the problem a little better now.

We don't have constitutional protection and while an amendment to the Canadian Constitution to include property rights may be considered the holy grail by some I am sceptical. America certainly has those protections and doesn't seem any better off.

The Alberta Property Rights Advocate Office approach is at least a token recognition that there is a problem but its \$500,000 budget and lack of any power or legislation make it essentially the equivalent of a well funded chapter of the OLA. I think this is a dangerous solution for Ontario as it would weaken the OLA and be easily disbanded with the next change in government.

My conclusion is that the solution is somewhere between these two possibilities and would consist of two related parts to bring forward to the policy convention.

Firstly, we seem to have relatively strong compensation for full expropriation in Ontario but none for partial “takings”. I would suggest a legislative bill to correct this will need to be part of any solution and the public will need to be educated before this can become a reality.

Secondly, To build on the idea of a “Ministry of Property Rights” it will take a funded and focused group to prepare the way for legislation to be passed through a comprehensive education effort and to help smoothly integrate it into common usage once legislation enacted. I am always wary of the “law of unintended consequences” to any government actions and would want any bill carefully crafted. Municipalities in particular, I suspect, will be very upset and will be vocal adversaries throughout the process requiring ongoing management.

Whatever form this group takes It will need a few things to be effective. Strong government support in the forms of money, power, and rhetoric will be the key drivers.

Getting this support, even from a majority PC government will not be easy. I suspect any notion of property rights, let alone the flaws in our protection, is completely unknown to the general public and mostly unknown to PC Party members.

Your description of a “basket of rights” you enjoy with your property is a perfect way to describe and educate with but again not currently understood in any way by the public.

It may take organized civil disobedience and protest of a few of the more egregious examples to capture enough urban attention to get support. If such actions were in

the news shortly before the policy convention that would be a happy “coincidence”. The notion that under NAFTA an American company enjoys partial expropriation protection where a local farmer does not, could and should be exploited.

You would know better than anyone not to underestimate how tough educating the public on these issues will be. People don’t have much sympathy these days for arcane “minor” inconveniences to some wealthy farmer. Especially if some frog, bird or turtle will be the beneficiary since it is perceived to be in the public good and they are benefitting at that farmers unknown and undisclosed expense. The concept that actions undertaken for the public good should have their costs borne by the general public are never heard and need to be trumpeted in the name of fairness.

It would be fun to get to the point where finding the messaging to best educate folks becomes the task.

Regards and good luck,”

