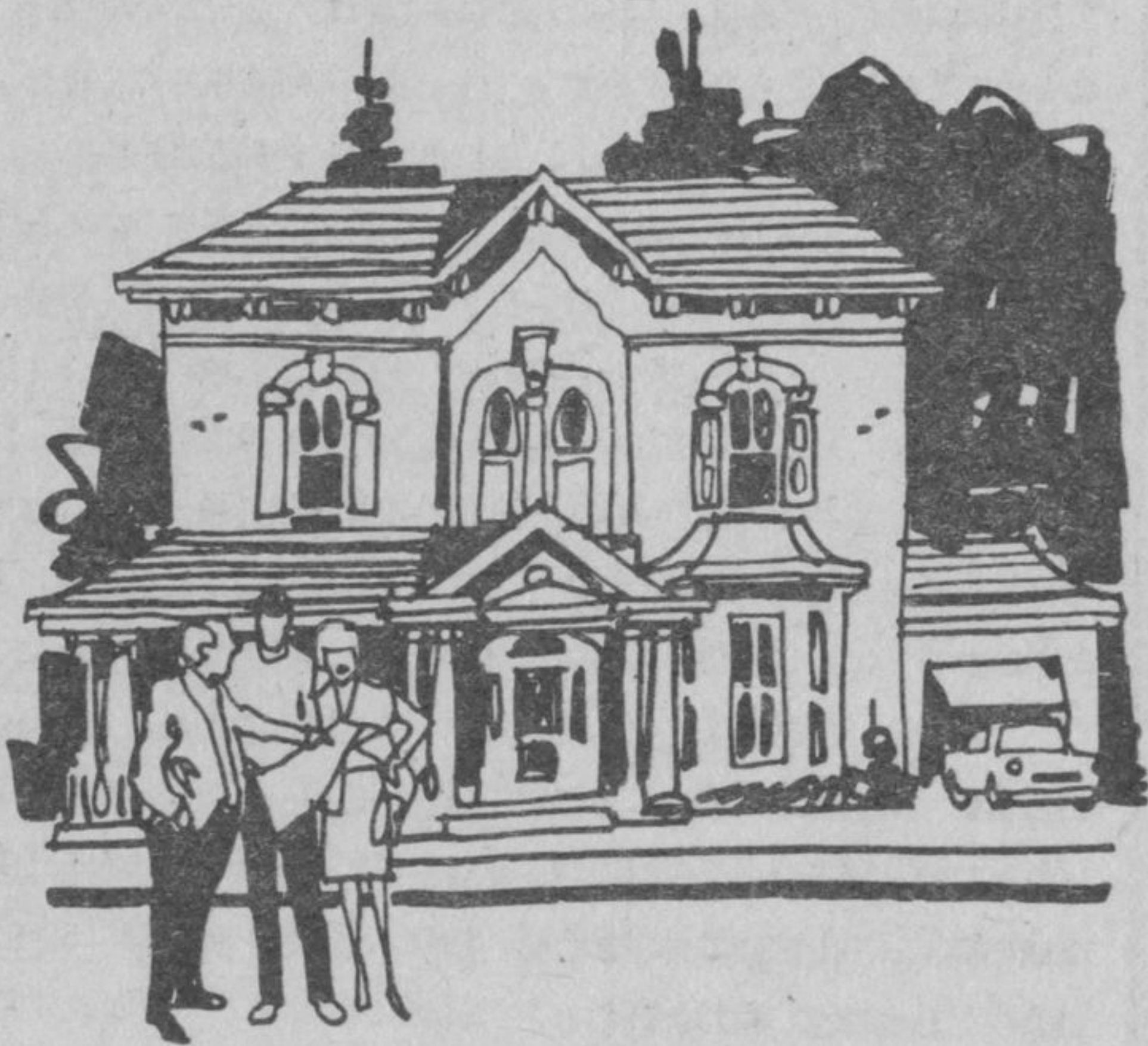


# Family property laws affect every one of us.

## These are the proposals Ontario is considering to improve them.



Have you ever thought about how much your life is affected by family property law? Probably not. Yet, hardly anything you have goes untouched by these laws — the property you owned before you were married, the property you've acquired since, your home, your joint bank account, your credit, even survivor's rights when your husband or wife dies.

Because family law is so fundamental, several years ago the Ontario Government asked the Ontario Law Reform Commission (OLRC) to consider the relevance of the existing laws to today's needs and to recommend appropriate changes.

The Commission has reported and now the government is interested in learning your reaction to these recommendations.

Should ownership of family property including the family home depend on who actually paid for it? ... or should a system of co-ownership of assets be developed on the basis of marriage as a social and economic partnership?

Should a spouse be entitled to an interest in the property of the marriage even when he or she has been unfair or unfaithful?

How should the wife's non-monetary contribution to the development of the husband's business be recognized?

If a system of co-ownership of property were introduced, should a couple have the option to draw up their own contract or make other arrangements to govern the property of their marriage?

Should the proposed changes apply to existing marriages or only to future marriages?

The Commission did consider other kinds of community property systems including those in which sharing would take place from the time of marriage. As the OLRC proposals now stand, assets acquired during the marriage would be shared only when the marriage ends.

The Commission also recommends that both husband and wife have a duty to support their children, and to support each other, when the other is in need and is unable to work.

Do you agree with these proposals? We want to know what you think.

To enable you to learn more about the OLRC proposals, your Ontario Government now offers a concise, easy-to-understand booklet, as well as a film on the subject for group discussions. We invite you to send for the booklet or borrow the film for your group. And, we'd like to know what you think of the OLRC's proposals, as well as other changes you'd like to see in family property law.

After all, the laws are designed to serve you. Write to:

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Toronto, Ontario M7A 1T5

The Ministry of the Attorney General  
Robert Welch, Minister



Government of Ontario

William Davis, Premier