

# RE: Statement for Windsor Star

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**From:** "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>  
**To:** "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA)" <trevor.watt@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)" <christina.crowley@ontario.ca>, "Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)" <johanna.wilkes@ontario.ca>  
**Cc:** "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>  
**Date:** Mon, 27 Mar 2017 15:17:32 -0400

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Thanks guys. Here's a revised version, with more messaging. As a reminder, [the journalist's deadline is 4pm today](#) .

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will provide an average of 25 per cent relief on electricity bills to all households, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. Smaller greenhouses will be eligible for the average 25 per cent reduction if they are on Time of Use pricing. Larger greenhouses with peak demand of more than one megawatt are eligible for the Industrial Conservation Initiative, which can help reduce bills by up to one-third. All other operations will benefit from moving social programs off the rate base, which will result in about two to four per cent savings. Ontario greenhouses are also eligible for energy efficiency support through the SaveOnEnergy program, which can significantly reduce electricity bills.

We recognize the importance of the greenhouse industry in our province, including our operators in the Windsor-Essex area. In 2016, Ontario's greenhouse sector supported over 81,000 jobs and contributed \$3.2 billion to the province's GDP.

The sector has seen significant growth at 150 acres per year, which now covers almost 3,000 acres across the province. This represents almost half of Canada's greenhouse sector, and the government will continue to provide the support needed to foster job and economic growth. Just last week the government announced the Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative, which will provide \$19 million in support for new technology and productivity in the greenhouse sector. This initiative, and others like it, will continue to boost competitiveness for greenhouses, and ensure long-term growth in the sector.

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary  
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**From:** McPhail, Blane (OPO)  
**Sent:** March-27-17 3:04 PM  
**To:** Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA); Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)  
**Cc:** Berry, James (ENERGY)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Those stats came from the industry association. Should we credit them in the statement ("according to xxx...")?

Wasn't there also a recent announcement of a new \$100 M greenhouse near Windsor?  
Good to show industry continues to expand despite what some are saying

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**From:** Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** McPhail, Blane (OPO); Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA); Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)  
**Cc:** Berry, James (ENERGY)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement for Windsor Star

Hi Colin,

You may want to work to fit in the following:

- Ontario's greenhouse sector continues to grow by 150 acres per year, which now covers almost 3,000 acres across the province. This represents almost half of Canada's greenhouse sector.
- In 2016, Ontario's greenhouse sector supported over 81,000 jobs and contributed \$3.2 billion to the province's GDP.
- This vibrant sector is growing in communities such as Durham, Kingston, Ottawa, Niagara, Chatham-Kent and Leamington.
- The \$19 million dollar investment helps our greenhouses succeed, grow and expand in Ontario. It is vitally important to invest in new technologies and innovation that will help Ontario's greenhouse sector maintain its role as a competitive, leading edge sector.
- Our government will continue to provide Ontario's greenhouse sector with the supports they need to foster jobs and economic prosperity across the province.

Happy to chat with you further if you need more information.

Thanks, Trevor

Trevor Watt  
Legislative Assistant and Issues Manager  
*Office of the Honourable Jeff Leal*  
*Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs*  
T: 416-326-6082

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**From:** McPhail, Blane (OPO)  
**Sent:** March-27-17 2:37 PM  
**To:** Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)  
**Cc:** Berry, James (ENERGY); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement for Windsor Star

Yes, also adding Trevor.

There are some helpful stats about the growth of the greenhouse industry from we should include

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**From:** Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)

**Sent:** March-27-17 2:19 PM

**To:** @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)

**Cc:** Berry, James (ENERGY)

**Subject:** Statement for Windsor Star

Hi all,

We've received a request from Anne Jarvis at the Windsor Star regarding greenhouses, and drafted a response below. This would benefit from additional perspective from PO/OMAFRA. Please let us know your thoughts. Thanks.

**Will the greenhouse growers' industry be eligible for the 25 percent break under the gov't's new Fair Hydro Plan?**

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