

Re: Statement for Windsor Star

From: "Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)" <johanna.wilkes@ontario.ca>
To: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@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>
Date: Mon, 27 Mar 2017 16:39:13 -0400

Here is a list of things we've worked on with the sector as well if we want to point to those in future inquiries!

- Committing more than \$10.7 million to 440 projects in the greenhouse industry since 2013, through programs such as Growing Forward 2.
- A new Growing Forward 2 Best Management Practice to help producers strengthen their biosecurity and respond to new invasive pest threats.
- Research on lighting to help greenhouse vegetable growers make informed investment decisions as they move to year-round production.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:38 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Small tweaks from my end below - the 150 number is an Ministry estimation I believe but Trevor can double check quickly!

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. **It's the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years.**

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.

It's important to recognize that the industry is growing. Just this month, Greenhill Produce announced a new \$100-million development that will create up to 300 new jobs, building on the nearly 3,000 acres and 81,000 jobs already here. The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers also expect the industry to keep growing by about 150 acres a year. And just last week, the government announced the Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative, which will provide \$19 million in support for 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
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
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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

From: Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:57 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); 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

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

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

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?

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. 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 help boost competitiveness for greenhouses, and ensure long-term growth in the sector.

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