

RE: Media Request

From: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
To: "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 10 Jul 2017 15:36:09 -0400

Yep, have chatted with them and they're comfortable. Messaging below overlaps with some of what we said on greenhouses/electricity prices so they're good with that.

From: McEachern, Gillian (OPO)
Sent: July-10-17 3:32 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Subject: Re: Media Request

Is OMAFRA in the loop?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Mullock, David (MOECC); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: RE: Media Request

See below for updated version. QP Briefing has also posted a story.

Ontario needs a realistic approach that balances action with affordability to fight climate change. Patrick Brown's carbon tax scheme – which he carefully avoided mentioning today – accomplishes neither. His scheme would cost families and businesses four times more without guaranteeing any reductions. It would also scrap the investments we are making to help businesses reduce costs, including up to \$115 million over four years for agricultural businesses like greenhouses.

The harm Patrick Brown would cause to the sector doesn't end there. His opposition to the Fair Hydro Plan means greenhouses using under 500 kW would no longer be eligible for the 25 percent reduction on their bills. Should he choose to scrap the Industrial Conservation Initiative, larger greenhouses would lose the chance to save as much as one third off their bills too. Our recently announced \$19 million Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative, intended to help the industry lower production costs, increase productivity and improve quality, could also be at risk.

The reality is that despite opposition claims, Ontario's greenhouse industry is growing. The independent Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers expects the industry to keep growing by about 150 acres a year. Producers like NatureFresh and Greenhill Produce have also recently announced expansions totally over \$100 million that will create hundreds of new jobs, building on the 81,000 jobs already here.

In this environment, Ontario needs a balanced plan to fight climate change. And with the federal government moving forward with a plan that will soon see all of Canada covered by a carbon price, we need a solution that makes sense for Ontario. That's why our plan, which includes a cap on the pollution businesses can release into the air, is best. It guarantees emission reductions at the cheapest price for people and the economy while also reinvesting every dollar to help keep costs for business low. Patrick Brown's inefficient, ineffective and unaffordable carbon tax scheme doesn't even come close.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: July-10-17 2:57 PM
To: Mullock, David (MOECC); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: RE: Media Request

And this: <http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/pc-leader-brown-promises-to-scrap-cap-and-trade-help-greenhouse-growers>

Will have my edits back shortly

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: July-10-17 2:41 PM
To: Mullock, David (MOECC); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: RE: Media Request

Thanks.

Some tweaks coming. Will share shortly.

From: Mullock, David (MOECC)
Sent: July-10-17 2:38 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: RE: Media Request

Additionally, we will send to the final response to this reporter:
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/patrick-brown-vows-to-end-cap-and-trade-during-kingsville-greenhouse-visit-1.4197598>

From: Mullock, David (MOECC)
Sent: July-10-17 1:45 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: FW: Media Request

Hi there – please see a request from the Toronto Sun on the cap and trade and the greenhouse sector.

Here is the draft response:

Last fall, the Federal Government announced its plan to fight climate change that will soon see all of Canada covered by a carbon price. Within that national framework, our Climate Change Action Plan is working right now by putting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and comes at the cheapest price possible for the Ontario economy. Through our extensive consultations, businesses across Ontario have shown support for our plan because it is best suited to ensure competitiveness and achieve real emissions reductions at the lowest cost.

Right now, we are making strategic investments with the proceeds from our carbon market into initiatives that are reducing pollution and helping with the transition to a low carbon economy. To support the greenhouse sector specifically, we are investing up to \$115 million over four years in the agricultural and food processing sector to help expand the use of innovative technologies and practices to reduce emissions.

In contrast, Patrick Brown's carbon tax scheme would negatively impact businesses and put an immediate end to all the investments of the Climate Change Action Plan. Specifically, the cost of

natural gas would be three times higher under the PC carbon tax scheme compared directly to our plan (*please see attached chart*).

Additionally in March 2017, Ontario announced the Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative to help the sector to create, adopt and invest in innovative new technologies to reduce production costs, increase productivity and improve produce quality, enabling operations to expand their businesses, attract new investment and create good jobs.

From: Jeffords, Shawn [<mailto:SJeffords@postmedia.com>]
Sent: July-10-17 12:31 PM
To: Gebremedhin, Ruth (MOECC)
Subject: Media Request

Hi Ruth,

Reaching out today regarding Patrick Brown's presser this morning in Kingsville. I wanted to get government reaction to his statements that Cap and Trade is hurting Greenhouse growers in the province.

My deadline is 6 p.m.

Thanks,

Shawn

Shawn Jeffords
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