

Staff Update | Energy MO (November 2017)

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Good Afternoon:

After 15 months as Communications Advisor, **Jessica McGrath** will be transitioning from our Minister's Office to take on the additional challenge and responsibility within Premier's Office Tour unit.

Known for her keen attention to detail, event management, media wrangling, communications planning and event esthetics, she is especially well suited for the hectic and busy pace that Premier's Tour will require in the last few months of this mandate. The overall organization of Government is best suited when talented and skilled individuals are given opportunity to grow and excel in roles for which they are best suited. Jessica joined Government after a career in the private sector, both domestically and abroad, and quickly demonstrated an aptitude, and passion for the "tour" aspects of external communications & event management. To that end – this move, at this particular time gives, me incredible confidence that we are staffing appropriately heading into a busy & politically charged 2018.

At Energy, Jessica has been instrumental in helping guide Minister Thibeault, personally, as he transitioned into the role of "Minister" for the first time last year; as a large part of that is the production and management of external communications. Visits and tours to third party sites these past few months to help communicate the benefits of *Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan* have been flawless in their organization; have resulted in excellent visuals, photos and communications results – all of which have helped spread the news about our ongoing plans to make electricity prices more affordable for families, farms and small businesses. Simply put: these results would not have been possible without Jessica McGrath. Whenever tasked with a challenge, she exceeded expectations and consistently delivered stellar communications events under difficult circumstances (and often compressed timelines). Keen to maintain a respectful dialogue with host communities and facilities, many venues that Minister has visited would comment about her professionalism and cooperative nature – Jessica will be missed as she departs our office, later this month.

While a hiring process will begin to seek out a replacement; please note that charge for specific events between now and calendar year-end will be divided up across multiple staff, determined on a case-by-case basis. For simplicity, probably best to direct all communications inquiries to James Berry after Jessica's departure; unless otherwise directed. Her last day with the Ministry of Energy will be Friday 1 December, 2017.

Please join me in congratulating Jessica McGrath for her stellar contribution to this portfolio and wishing her well in her new duties.

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