

Re: Statement for Windsor Star

From: "Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)" <johanna.wilkes@ontario.ca>
To: "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA)" <trevor.watt@ontario.ca>, "Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)" <christina.crowley@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 27 Mar 2017 18:55:46 -0400

Absolutely. I've send them separately and copy you on my email to them.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:54 PM
To: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

I'm happy to call them tomorrow. I know Justine and have her details, but can you share information for Rej?

Thanks,
Craig

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:48 PM
To: Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

I can send the initial the email tonight and I've requested that someone from MoE follow-up with them (Rej and Justine - separately) for a detailed discussion.

Are you good with this approach?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:19 PM

To: Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Thanks for clarifying Craig.

Could I ask that one of you call Justine to walk her through the changes tomorrow? The sector is under the impression that there is a 500 kilowatt threshold based on the information I had.

I'll let the Minister know in the morning but if someone from Energy could call the sector and clarify that would be much appreciated.

I don't want them being caught off guard.

Thanks!
Johanna

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Hi Jo,

The 500 kW is only for NAICS 31-33. That would include food processing companies, but not greenhouses.

Sorry if we gave you incorrect information.

C

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Hi Guys:

Just checking in here.

Thanks!

Jo

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:40 PM
To: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Cc: Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Statement for Windsor Star

Matt, Craig, any chance you can weigh in on this for Johanna please? Thanks!

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nikolaichuk@ontario.ca

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)
Sent: March-27-17 3:39 PM
To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

That's not what we were lead to believe - I specifically asked if it applied to the greenhouse sector.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA); Berry, James (ENERGY); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)
Cc: Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Statement for Windsor Star

The 500 kilowatt threshold is only set to apply to the manufacturing sector. For greenhouses, it will still be 1MW.

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928

colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca

From: Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)

Sent: March-27-17 3:34 PM

To: Berry, James (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA)

Subject: Re: Statement for Windsor Star

Hi All:

I believe that the threshold is being lowered to 500 kilowatts (based on my briefing with Matt) for ICI.

Also, can I share this answer with the sector as they are still waiting on an answer to almost this exact question - I'd like them to hear it for me and not the news.

Thanks!
Johanna

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Berry, James (ENERGY)

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:27 PM

To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA); Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)

Subject: RE: Statement for Windsor Star

I added the piece in red below about the greenhouse expansion in Dawn-Euphemia announced earlier this month.

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)

Sent: March-27-17 3:18 PM

To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Crowley, Christina (OMAFRA); Wilkes, Johanna (OMAFRA)

Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY)

Subject: RE: Statement for Windsor Star

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. **One example of this growth is Greenhill Produce in Chatham-Kent, who announced its plans earlier this month to invest as much as \$100 million to develop a 100-acre greenhouse complex in Dawn-Euphemia Township. And** 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 Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nikolaichuk@ontario.ca

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: March-27-17 3:04 PM
To: Watt, Trevor (OMAFRA); 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

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); 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

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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