



FCO and Niagara's Greenhouse Growers applaud Ontario investment into Niagara irrigation

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Guelph, ON

Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc. (FCO) applauds the Ontario government's plan to invest \$135 million in water systems and irrigation infrastructure in the Niagara and Leamington regions. On Monday August 11, 2025, Minister Jones (Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness), Minister Surma (Infrastructure) and Associate Minister Oosterhoff (Energy-Intensive Industries) announced significant investments in infrastructure, with \$41 million being directed to irrigation investment in Niagara.

This investment is critically important to Niagara's farmers, with the potential to significantly improve access to water, grow farm productivity, and increase farm resiliency.

"Water is the foundation of everything we grow. Without sufficient access to water, we can't produce our crops" said John Boekestyn, chair of FCO's Niagara Greenhouse Growers committee. "This investment is an incredible commitment to the Niagara region, and will help to ensure a bright future for greenhouse farming in Niagara for generations to come."

"This announcement would not have been possible without the incredible work of many farmers and municipal leaders across Niagara calling for this important investment" said Rodney Bierhuizen, President of FCO. "We're incredibly thankful for the partnership of the towns of Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines for helping to make this announcement a possibility."

Niagara is home to the largest concentration of greenhouse flower farms in Canada accounting for nearly 20% of all Canadian greenhouse flower production area, making this announcement particularly meaningful to flower farmers.

"Investment in farming infrastructure provides benefits that will last for decades. These investments are critically important nation-building exercises which demonstrate the Ontario's commitment to the future of farming," said Andrew Morse, Executive Director of FCO. "We are tremendously grateful to Minister Jones, Minister Surma, Associate Minister Oosterhoff, and of course Premier Ford for their leadership and commitment to famers."

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Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc. is the provincial trade and professional association of the Ontario floral industry serving the floriculture sector and its members, greenhouse floriculture producers, for over 50 years. FCO's mission is to promote the growth and influence of Ontario Growers by advocating the sale of flowers at home and abroad, protecting member sustainability at all levels, and promoting excellence in all areas, including through research. Please visit flowerscanadagrowers.com for more information.

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