



Grape Growers  
*of* ONTARIO

Rooted in Ontario



# ***Presentation to the Development Charge Task Force***

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**DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN, CEO**  
**May 19, 2022**

## Who We Are

- **GGO is the official organization representing all 500 processing grape growers including 183 wineries on 18,000 acres of vineyards in the province.**
- **95% of production is in Niagara.**
- **\$4.4 billion of economic impact; \$847 million tourism impact; 2.4 million tourists.**

# Agriculture is Important Culturally and Economically

## In Niagara:

- **\$383.8 million gross farm receipts**
- **\$1.4 billion gross domestic product impact**
- **19,892 jobs**

***Niagara Agriculture Profile and Niagara Region  
Agriculture Economic Impact Reports (2016  
census data)***

# Niagara Region Official Plan

## Pillar Statement:

***Thriving agriculture and tourism –  
A prosperous agricultural industry and  
world-class tourism opportunities that  
grow our economy and elevate the  
Niagara experience***

# Niagara's Specialty Crop Land

- **Niagara's Specialty Crop land is unique and recognized in the Greenbelt Plan as a finite resource to be protected through productive agriculture.**
- **Dismissing our impact and importance is incredibly short-sighted**
- **The priorities of the Region and Province are not recognized in the current proposal to eliminate the exemption for agricultural buildings**



# Potential Impact

- **Example of a simple 40 ft x 60 ft metal storage building costing \$50,000 to purchase**
- **New development charge at \$8.76 per square foot = \$21,024**
- **40% of the cost of the building.**



# Niagara Region Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC)

- Forum to facilitate consultation on issues impacting agriculture
- APAC should have been consulted on this issue or provided with the full report, given the significance of development charges on the industry

# Grape Growers of Ontario



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