

MEETING WITH ONTARIO PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE

Thursday, March 5, 2015

OBJECTIVES

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POTENTIAL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- **Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs)**

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- When Canada's Premiers met in Ottawa in January, they agreed that Premiers Clark, Gallant (NB) and Wynne (ON) would take the lead on engaging the federal government on proposed federal changes to LMDAs.

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- **Priorities for Federal Engagement**

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- **Interprovincial Direct to Consumer Shipping of Wine (DTCS)**

- Enabling interprovincial Direct to Consumer Shipping of wine (DTCS) is a priority for the wine industry in both BC and Ontario. During her first sixteen months as Premier, Premier Wynne also served as agriculture minister, with direct exposure to the wine industry's issues.

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BACKGROUND

ONTARIO POLITICAL CONTEXT

- Ontario's legislature is currently in session, and is to sit until June 4.
- As part of a commissioned review of all government assets, the relationship between the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) and the Beer Store is being examined. While Premier Wynne has confirmed that selling beer in convenience stores will not happen, she has yet to rule out the possibility of beer being sold in supermarkets or in independent craft brewers' boutiques.
- Finance Minister Charles Sousa launched 'budget talks' this year for the first time, an online forum where residents could submit their ideas for increasing revenues and reducing spending in the upcoming budget, with the sale of beer, wine and alcohol by private retailers voted the most popular suggestion.
- Premier Wynne has promised to balance the budget by 2017-18. Currently, Ontario has a deficit of \$12.5-billion. The budget is expected to be tabled sometime in the spring.
- Stephen LeClair is set to become Ontario's first Financial Accountability Officer (FAO), following budget negotiations in 2013 when the minority government agreed to an NDP initiative that called for an independent officer of the Legislature. The FAO will be modelled after the federal Parliamentary Budget Officer.

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