



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

Dear Chairman Gilvesy,

I hope the times find you and your family well and safe.

No doubt you are getting the same volume of public enquiries regarding greenhouse industry's leadership around COVID-19 and their workers with increasing attention on part of a contract labour force. It is alleged that some of these workers were not tested for COVID-19, after the outbreak at that facility, when other Temporary Foreign Workers were tested, because they were undocumented people working for a contractor.

The Labour Contractors have been a part of the labour force for the Greenhouse industry for some time. Given that so many Canadians are unemployed due to COVID-19, there is a great consensus to find any and every means possible to employ Canadians first.

I am aware that the Temporary Foreign Workers Programme has this "Canadians First" consideration built into its structure, and so have been a strong supporter of the maintenance of this program for the Greenhouse Vegetable, as well as other industries where it is crucial for ongoing uninterrupted production. However, the use of undocumented workers cannot be condoned at any time, let alone now during a period of extreme unemployment.

Given this situation, it is helpful if the industry and levels of government are of a common understanding and public messaging. Therefore, it seems prudent to first seek your leadership as Chairman of OGVG to first address the issue and identify the efforts that it, along with it's growers, are committed to protecting government, industry and community stakeholders who continue to be supporters of the off-shore worker programs.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to the industry's response before considering further initiatives to protect the interests of Canadian citizens.

Best Regards,

Dave Epp  
Member of Parliament  
Chatham-Kent—Leamington

Cc: Hilda Macdonald, Mayor, Municipality of Leamington,  
Darrin Canniff, Mayor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

