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Leeds-Grenville

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

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RUNCIMAN'S FRUIT WINE BILL PASSES SECOND READING
Bill 132 referred to General Government Committee for public hearings

(Toronto)– Leeds-Grenville MPP Bob Runciman's Bill 132 received second reading today with support of both the Progressive Conservative and Liberal Caucus. Only the NDP spoke against the private members bill that would allow the sale of Ontario fruit wine at local farmers' markets.

Bill 132 continues to move forward through the legislative process and Runciman was pleased today with the support from government members. The general government committee will be the next step and the Leeds-Grenville MPP hopes hearings will be scheduled in January or February.

"I am very optimistic with the response and debate during second reading" said Runciman. "My hope is that we will see Ontario fruit wines sold at farmer's markets this summer".

A number of Canadian provinces and U.S states including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, and Iowa have allowed fruit wineries to sell their product at local markets.

His riding's only fruit winery, Countryman's Estate Winery in Maitland was mentioned by Runciman today during second reading. "The owner's, Marsha and Gene Countryman are the salt of the earth"

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