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ONTARIO GREENHOUSE SECTOR ACCLAIMS NEW CHAIR

Leamington and Niagara -- The Ontario Greenhouse Alliance (TOGA), representing both vegetable and floral greenhouse producers, announced today that the Board of Directors has acclaimed a new Chair for the coming year. Réjean Picard, a director on TOGA's Board since 2004 and most recently its Treasurer, is TOGA's new Chair. Réjean takes over this role from Cole Cacciavillani who stepped down after serving as TOGA's chair since its inception in 2003. Réjean is the CEO for the Westbrook Group of Companies, one of Ontario's largest floriculture firms. Jan Vanderhout, a long-serving TOGA director and President of Beverly Greenhouses, an Ontario greenhouse cucumber operation, takes over as Treasurer.

"We are extremely indebted to Cole for the leadership he has provided to TOGA, both in his instrumental role in getting TOGA established and his outstanding service in nurturing the organization through its first five years " stated Réjean Picard, newly chosen Chair of The Ontario Greenhouse Alliance.

When asked about the plans for TOGA in the future, Réjean stated, "The greenhouse sector in Ontario is experiencing tough times as a result of low prices in the market for many of our products and escalating costs, especially for labour and energy. As an industry, we plan to work very hard with governments to address those regulatory and program factors in ways that will support our growers."