# Ontario VQA Support Program
## June 2013 – Update as presented at June AGM

**Background**

The current VQA Support Program is currently in its fifth and final year.  The final payment to wineries under the existing program will be paid in approximately September 2014 (based on OTC sales through the LCBO for the period from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014).

The process for payment to wineries for the fourth year (payments to be made in approximately September 2013) has yet to start (see below).

As wineries need to plan over 1 year in advance for selling through the LCBO (especially for Vintages sales), it is imperative that MEDTE announce the continuation of the program as soon as possible.  Therefore, the WCO asked wineries to submit letters in support of the program to the Minister (Eric Hoskins) now (many have done so already).

If any wineries have NOT submitted letters to the Minister, it is still extremely important that they do so.

**Application for Funding under the Program for the Fourth Year**

In previous years, the annual application forms for the funding have been issued by early June, for completion and return by the end of June.  This year, the form is being revised; we are told by MEDTE that the form will be issued by the end of June, for completion and return before the end of July.

The forms will not be changed materially from previous years, however, MEDTE notes:
- Additional corporate/organizational information will be requested which will assist MEDTE in evaluating the success of the program
- The form will be streamlined from earlier versions
- The 'report back' on the previous year (for those who participated) will also be streamlined
- MEDT will ask for direct-deposit banking information, so the time-consuming process of issuing cheques can be circumvented.

Funds for the fourth year should be received by participating wineries by mid-September 2013, a timeframe consistent with previous years.

*If members have questions on the VQA support program, please contact D. Gibson at the WCO office.*