



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Hospitality Industry Applauds the \$4.00 and under Meal Exemption**

TORONTO – Today, the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) applauds the McGuinty government’s announcement of maintaining the \$4 and under meal exemption under the HST.

“This is welcoming news to both independent operators and large quick service brands of various size and operation concepts as they have expressed significant concerns with respect to lost revenue. These operators generate a considerable mix of their business under the \$4 price point.” said Tony Elenis, ORHMA President and CEO.

The ORHMA has written to the Premier and met with senior government officials advocating the retention of the \$4 exemption and specifically mentioned concerns with the loss of it. This follows up on a series of ongoing discussions with senior government officials regarding aspects of harmonization.

“This announcement will support maintaining jobs in the industry. Ontario’s hospitality industry is the largest employer of youth and it is essential to keep our young people employed in order to develop the workplace skills necessary for a successful career in the industry.” said Tony Elenis.

“This is wonderful news for operators and consumers. It is a positive move towards helping generate consumer demand in unpredictable times. Restaurants are offering healthier alternatives in menu selections and this will assist in the commitment to providing healthy food choice alternatives to working families” said Tony Elenis. “In percentage terms, low-income families spend twice as much of their disposable income on meals away from home.” Elenis goes on to say.

#### **About the ORHMA**

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) is the largest provincial hospitality association in Canada. Representing more than 11,000 establishments across the province of Ontario, the ORHMA is uniquely positioned to represent the interests of both the foodservice and accommodation industries.

Visit the ORHMA on the web at [www.orhma.com](http://www.orhma.com). For further information contact: Tony Elenis, President and CEO at (905) 361-0268 or (800) 668-8906.