



## Tourism:

Dedicated strategic investments to spur business and growth in Ontario, including focused investments in infrastructure, must focus on key regions and the merit of funding decisions should include consideration of tourism impacts.

Moreover, to ensure that funding of tourism projects and tourism marketing is aimed at key domestic markets, it is incumbent on government to develop a dedicated government/industry team to drive strategic investments and take into account the future impact of funding decisions.

The government does not have a meaningful tourism investment strategy with incentive loans to stimulate economic growth in the sector. It is urgent in the short term that a loan program is developed to encourage investment and support competitiveness.

## Actions ORHMA members would like to see from the government:

- the \$25 million funding for the validated DMF jurisdictions in Ontario continue past the year 2013 and that this funding be made permanent.
- the establishment of a “Success Team for Tourism Investment” to work within a measurable business plan to drive activities and be empowered to work with all levels of government in removing regulatory barriers and employ incentives for beneficial use.
- the development of a Tourism Investment Strategy in the form of a loan guarantee program and consider the re-introduction of the Tourism Redevelopment Incentive Program (TRIP) to provide loan guarantees to support new or expanded tourism assets.
- Reducing the HST charge on hotel rooms to provide a competitive market price advantage and enable the industry to add a hotel room fee/levy model to promote Ontario destinations.
- the inclusion of tourism projects as part of the anticipated stimulus in the Canada-Ontario Investment Program in order to jump start employment and ensure future sustainability of the tourist industry.

## NOTES:

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