

Ministry of Tourism

Ministère du Tourisme

Minister

Ministre

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September 23, 2009

Mr. Tony Elenis
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association
2600 Skymark Avenue
Suite 8-201
Mississauga, ON L4W 5B2

Dear Mr. Elenis:

I would like to thank you and Michelle Saunders for meeting with me on July 14, 2009. I appreciated the opportunity to hear about current items of interest for members of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA). I apologize for the delay in sending this follow-up letter to you.

I recognize your efforts to extend the benefits of our government's Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit to all hospitality businesses that hire a Red Seal-recognized baker or cook apprenticeship. As discussed, I am sending letters outlining the benefits of this program to your members to my Cabinet colleagues, the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. Copies of these letters are enclosed for your information.

I am pleased to learn of your attendance at the recent pan-provincial planning session on the regional tourism structure and I appreciate your feedback that a regional approach will be beneficial to the tourism sector. The Ministry is also working on a number of other initiatives stemming from the *Discovering Ontario* report, and, as I mentioned during our meeting, we want to ensure a collaborative effort between our partners and government as we move forward on these initiatives.

We are currently hosting monthly working sessions, each with pre-scheduled topics, where identified stakeholders and ministry officials can work together. The first of these meetings was held on August 11 and the regional structure was discussed. I encourage you to work with the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario to maximize your participation in these ongoing meetings.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to working with you and your members as we continue to build and strengthen the tourism sector in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monique M. Smith".

Monique M. Smith
Minister

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September 23, 2009

The Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Duncan:

I am writing to you to highlight an issue that has been brought to my attention by a key tourism stakeholder, the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA).

I met with Tony Elenis, President and CEO of ORHMA on July 14, 2009 and he raised some concerns about limitations in the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC) program. Currently, this program does not apply to Red Seal culinary cooks and bakers in the hospitality sector. Mr. Elenis has indicated that his members, which include thousands of hospitality businesses across Ontario, would significantly benefit from this program.

I would ask that consideration be given to ORHMA's recommendation to include the identified hospitality workers in the ATTC program. As I know you are well aware, the tourism sector is a \$22 billion industry that directly and indirectly employs approximately 300,000 workers. Since tourism is a key economic driver in our province and a job creator across all regions, we must ensure that visitors to Ontario are served by well-trained employees who can help ensure the best tourism experience. I have also written to our Cabinet colleague, the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and University, on this matter and I understand that the ORHMA have also brought this to his attention.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Monique M. Smith
Minister

c: Tony Elenis, President and CEO, Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association

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September 23, 2009

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Minister of Revenue
Mowat Block, 3rd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Milloy:

I am writing to you to highlight an issue that has been brought to my attention by a key tourism stakeholder, the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA).

I met with Tony Elenis, President and CEO of ORHMA on July 14, 2009 and he raised some concerns about the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC) program. Currently, this program does not apply to Red Seal culinary cooks and bakers in the hospitality sector. Mr. Elenis has indicated that his members, which include thousands of hospitality businesses across Ontario, would significantly benefit from this program. I understand that you have also met with Mr. Elenis and you have informed him that, while you are supportive of his request, fiscal consideration must be given under these challenging economic times. I have also written to our Cabinet colleague the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, highlighting the benefits that this change to the ATTC program could provide to the hospitality sector.

As you are aware, the tourism sector is a \$22 billion industry that directly and indirectly employs approximately 300,000 workers. Since tourism is a key economic driver in Ontario and a job creator across all regions, ORHMA's recommendation to include the identified hospitality workers in the ATTC program would prove beneficial to creating a skilled workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monique M. Smith".

Monique M. Smith
Minister

c: Tony Elenis, President and CEO, Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association

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