



September 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Elenis:

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to tell you about our five-point jobs plan to make Ontario the leader in private-sector job creation once again.

As a former Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, I have great respect for the men and women who work in Ontario's hospitality industry. I also have a bit of family history in the business, too.

With my family, it was the restaurant business. After immigrating to Ontario from Eastern Europe, my grandfather opened a restaurant in Toronto in 1928, but the challenges of that time soon forced him into the construction business. In the end, by showing the perseverance of a generation that helped build our province, he would try again successfully in the 1950s as part owner of the Tea Garden Restaurant and the Mitton Street Snack Bar in Sarnia.

I wanted to share this story because it illustrates how personal it is to me when I hear almost daily from small business owners that Dalton McGuinty's tax grabs, excessive red tape, and skyrocketing hydro rates are handcuffing small businesses' ability to create jobs.

Through SARS, the recession, and so many other great challenges, your industry has endured a lot. Simply put, the hospitality industry cannot afford another eight years of Dalton McGuinty.

Who would have ever imagined that Ontario would become a "have not" province receiving equalization payments from the rest of the country?

Dalton McGuinty clings to the belief that the key to economic growth is to hike taxes on hardworking families and productive businesses in order to fund government-subsidized jobs. The result? There are 550,000 unemployed people in Ontario looking for work.

When I speak with family restaurant owners they tell me that Dalton McGuinty's burdensome red tape and endless rules and regulations eat away at their profits and force them to spend time filling out forms instead of serving their guests. Hotel and motel owners must follow 21 pieces of legislation – all of which contain pages upon pages of regulations. For example, the number of posters, signs and licences a restaurant owner is forced to hang in his or her establishment is mind boggling.

The Ontario PC Party has a completely different approach that directly addresses many of the specific concerns raised in your letter. We believe in freeing the job creators and letting customers and markets determine which companies succeed and grow – not government bureaucrats or politicians.



An Ontario PC government will implement a five-point plan to create private-sector jobs in Ontario:

- Treat energy policy as economic policy – not as a social program.
- Train 200,000 more skilled workers by expanding the apprenticeship system.
- Reduce taxes on job creators.
- Eliminate job-killing red tape.
- Lower taxes on families.

Our five-point jobs plan will give families the confidence to spend again, and employers the confidence to hire again. An Ontario PC government will create good private-sector jobs, the kind that allow you to raise a family or buy a home.

You also asked about the minimum wage. Raising the minimum wage is not part of our *changebook* plan. Ontario already has the highest minimum wage in Canada because Dalton McGuinty has raised it 7 times – to \$10.25 from \$6.85. Combined with skyrocketing hydro bills and higher payroll, corporate, and small-business taxes, Ontario businesses are struggling to compete both globally and right here at home with other Canadian and American jurisdictions. As a result, Ontario's unemployment rate has surpassed the national average for the last 55 months.

Let's work hard. Let's free the job creators. Let's unleash that entrepreneurial, can-do attitude on which the foundation of our great province was built. If we do these things, I promise you that Ontario can – that Ontario will – lead again.

These are just some of the ways we will bring change to spur job creation. The rest can be found in *changebook*, our plan for Ontario families, at www.changebook.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hudak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Hudak
Ontario PC Leader