



ORHMA Toronto Meets with Toronto Mayor Rob Ford

December 13th, 2011

On December 13th in the midst of the Mayor's busy budget process, members of the Toronto Region of the ORHMA (Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association) along with Association President and CEO, Tony Elenis and Government Relations Manager, Brandy Giannetta met with Mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford to discuss the interests of the restaurant industry in the city of Toronto. Joining the group were also key members of the city's leadership departments.

Mayor Ford expressed clear support for the industry and its development and success, and responded favourably with commitments of support on the many key issues the group raised during the meeting.

Several topics were discussed including the comprehensive zoning by-law and the elements of it which affect restaurants and their patios, simplifying and harmonizing business licencing, municipal taxation powers as part of the City of Toronto Act, and the examination of rules relating to food trucks. The Mayor indicated a strong level of understanding and support for ORHMA's positions on these matters.

Of significant value to the group was an overall agreement to develop a strong working partnership where members of the ORHMA will actively participate in consultations in an effort to influence city matters and policies relating to the industry. All agreed that this would be the case going forward.

Jason Cheskes, President of the Toronto Region of the ORHMA, stated following the meeting that "We are extremely pleased to receive such a strong level of support from Mayor Ford, and to hear such clarity in purpose and expectations of results. We look forward to working with the Mayor and his team to strengthen the position of the industry and support the growth and success of the City".

To demonstrate his commitment, a follow up meeting with ORHMA was called for by the Mayor and was immediately set up with the Planning and Zoning department leadership.

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, 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.