



ONTARIO RESTAURANT HOTEL & MOTEL ASSOCIATION

## Member Update!

### Ontario Throne Speech

April 30, 2003

#### Throne Speech:

Today, the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, presented a Speech from the Throne, opening the Fourth Session of the 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ontario.

As a blueprint for the upcoming legislative session, the Throne Speech was drafted with input from Ontarians, as the Government took a first-of-its-kind approach by conducting province-wide consultation sessions with stakeholders and citizens.

The speech outlined the Government's priorities including a balanced budget, \$5 billion in debt repayment, tax cuts, a focus on senior citizens, healthcare and education.

#### **The following are items of particular interest to our industry:**

- ❖ Reduction in the small business tax rate to 5% in 2004 and 4% in 2005.
- ❖ New SARS legislation to protect workers' jobs.
- ❖ End to mandatory retirement at age 65.
- ❖ The creation of tax incentive zones in rural areas.

Although not mentioned in the Throne Speech, the industry is expecting additional support from the Government in the form of previously announced initiatives. This support will take the form of the elimination of the Capital Tax, and the 2-year, \$118 million dollar strategic marketing plan to rebuild Ontario's tourism and hospitality industry in the wake of SARS.

The Association will continue to consult with Government to ensure swift and successful implementation of these initiatives.

#### **Government Introduces PST Tax Holiday:**

**EFFECTIVE MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003: NO PST is to be collected  
on Accommodation Charges or Entrance Fees to  
Attractions until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.**