



April 28, 2021

Minister Marco Mendicino,
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

cc. Bob Saroya, Minister of Parliament, Markham Unionville

Re: Hospitality NOC codes' in the 'Other Essential Workers' stream

Dear Minister Mendicino,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA). ORHMA dates back to the 1920's and is the largest not-for-profit provincial hospitality association, representing over 11,000 establishments across Ontario. ORHMA is dedicated to fostering a positive business climate for the hospitality industry and represents the industry's interest at all levels of government.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, workforce availability and development were the number one industry issues experienced by hospitality operations irrelevant if located in urban, suburban or resort seasonal settings. The need to fill positions were forcing many hospitality operators to freeze investments while experiencing operational challenges affecting service and employee morale.

Over the years the labour force climate has changed stemming from baby boomers exiting the workforce at a rapid rate and less young people entering it with even less choosing to work in hospitality. Now COVID-19 has influenced the interest of students to look at hospitality as a career.

Even though current unemployment data is showing thousands of workers not yet re-employed, finding workers in some parts of Ontario and in some fields is very challenging. COVID-19 has amplified this issue and has made it more critical. A concerning transformation taking place are the negative views of students in hospitality employment and careers.

Under the current workforce conditions hospitality is facing a challenging journey ahead. We are shocked of the absence of **'Hospitality NOC codes'** in the **'Other Essential Workers'** stream for upcoming pathways slated to start on May 6th.

To this we are calling for a change of policy to include **'Hospitality NOC codes'** to the **'Other Essential Workers'** stream to enable the sector's businesses to be successful in the recovery road that lies ahead.

Yours in hospitality,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elenis", is positioned below the closing text.

Tony Elenis
President & CEO
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA)