

May 6, 2021

Hon. Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

**RE: Amendment Recommendation to the Labour Market Impact Assessment
under the Temporary Foreign Workers Program**

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

On behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA) and its members I'm writing in support of changes to the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) under the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

We are urging the Federal Government to initiate a simple temporary exemption for low wage earners in the hospitality industry from the 6% unemployment cap similar to the adjustment provided to the agriculture industry.

This is a simple amendment recently presented to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration by the Living Water Resorts team located in Collingwood, Ontario. This property is one of many facing enormous challenges with attracting workers.

Prior to COVID-19, the workforce issue was the number one concern for hospitality. COVID-19 has now created a much greater need with critical worries. The recovery journey will soon begin and it is essential for hotels to be able to operate with proper employee levels. There is plenty of evidence that Canadians are refusing to perform essential hospitality job roles. We have no alternative.

Employee shortages cripple investments and expansions while adding enormous pressure to the operation, guest services and employee satisfaction. Post-COVID-19, all tourism products across the country will face fierce global competition and we need to stay competitive to help grow our economy.

The LMIA amendment requested is simple and fair addressing the chronic workforce issue that is damaging hospitality operations.

I hope you will consider this request that will support hospitality now and in post-pandemic recovery.

Sincerely,



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