



January 18, 2021

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Bldg S 7th Flr,
7 Queen's Park Cres,
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Re: Ontario's Small Business Support Grant

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

Warm congratulations on your recent appointment and wishing you the best success. Thank you for your continued efforts to support Ontarians and employers during these challenging times.

We were pleased to see several positive initiatives stemming from the Fall Provincial Budget that will be beneficial to Ontario's hospitality sectors. Both the accommodations and foodservice industries have been devastated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are writing to you to raise concern on the omission of hotels and motels from the Small Business Support Grant. They are, once again, left out of provincial pandemic relief that is offered to other businesses. This follows their omission from the recent \$600 million fixed cost business support which was announced in late 2020 (exception being meeting rooms and restaurant space located within a hotel property).

Hotels have not been directed to close but with mandated restrictions including travel restrictions, many hotels sit empty or have performed with poor occupancies for much of 2020. The recent province-wide shutdown announcement is crippling the sector. Cash reserves are rapidly depleting and many businesses are hanging on the edge to survive. In a recent industry survey over 70% stated that they will not be able to continue operating unless financial relief is given.

The hotel community is supportive of government direction and continue to operate with the required safety protocols but this latest shutdown is detrimental.

We are highly requesting that Ontario's Small Business Support Grant apply to the entire accommodations sector based on the employee and revenue criteria outlined by the Province. In these struggling times every dollar received can make a difference in keeping doors open.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elenis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Macleod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture
The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction