

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

January 16, 2012

**ORHMA Toronto
Region Board of
Directors**
2011/12 Executive

 Jason Cheskes
Chair

 Above The Line
Solutions

 Steve Mastoras
Vice-Chair
Whistler's

 Joe Marques
Treasurer
Cara

 Al Stuart
Secretary
The Pilot

**2011/12 Board
Members**

 Brian Barnett
Kitting Ridge Wines &
Spirits

 Tony Cappellano
Boom Breakfast

 Debra DeMonte
The Longest Yard

 Heli Donaldson
Spirits Bar & Grill

 Frank Goutzioulis
Tom Jones Steakhouse

 Cindy Gouveia
George Brown College

 Marvin Greenberg
Marvin Speaks

 Tim Kennelly
Diageo Canada Inc.

 Paul Manna
Manna Franchise
Corporation

 John Oakes
Harbord House

 Matt Rolfe
Barmatrix Toronto

 Todd Sherman
Gabby's Restaurant
Group

 Robbie Stewart
GL Roberts Collegiate &
Vocational Institute

 Hans Sturzenbecher
Macy's

 Mark TenEycke
Pegasus Group

Ulli Watkis

 Clerk, City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

2012 JAN 17 A 8:46

Dear Clerk and Members of Council,

The Toronto Region Board of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) is writing today to encourage Toronto City Council to support a fiscally responsible budget for the City of Toronto and applaud the efforts of Mayor Ford in seeking to reduce waste, improve efficiencies and improve the processes of departments to better the business climate in the city.

The ORHMA – Toronto Region Board is comprised of a cross-section of owners and operators representing Toronto's 8,000 restaurateurs. Our membership is comprised of business owners who know too well the pressures of fiscal restraint. As business owners/operators in Toronto, we support fiscal responsibility in all levels of government and we commend the Mayor's efforts to run the City in a prudent businesslike fashion

Responsible governments have a unique opportunity now to return integrity to a process that has been muddied in the past by mismanagement and impediments to progress for businesses. The amount of consultation on this particular budget is encouraging to the restaurant industry that has struggled to have our issues and concerns heard in the past. We are encouraged because the budget contains elements which are in line with priorities the Toronto Region Board of ORHMA has called for in the past. The open for business approach of streamlining processes, outsourcing where necessary and feasible, and the reduction of red tape are all issues the Toronto Region Board of ORHMA has advocated for on behalf of our own industry.

As business owners we can appreciate and acknowledge the difficulties faced by The City of Toronto in preparing the 2012 Budget to address the pressure of a \$774 million gap, reduce its reliance on one-time revenues, bring spending back in line with revenue growth, and moderate capital financing pressure. Though our operating budgets and margins are much less grandiose, we are forced to control our expenses daily or face closing our doors. A municipal government that is willing to take the same approach as we do in our own operations, is indeed a responsible government.



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The Toronto Region Board is encouraged by the process and hopes that the consultative nature we have begun and has been seen utilized in the budget process will continue as we work to communicate to the Mayor and Members of Council our issues around licensing, permits, by-law impacts, and the city's powers of taxation. We hope the changes in this budget will lead to a more sustainable and prosperous business climate within the city of Toronto. Such an outcome would be particularly encouraging for our businesses in the fiscally challenged environment that currently confronts the City.

We appreciate the courage and determination of Mayor Ford and his team to take on items which may be contentious for the greater good and his commitment to a stronger fiscal model and an improved business climate.

We look forward to growing our businesses in Toronto with the support of a strong City Council and solid municipal budget.

Best Regards,

Jason Cheskes
President

Jason@AboveTheLineSolutions.com (905) 237-1953