



Re: Harmonized By-law and Fees for Sidewalk Cafés, Parklets and Marketing Displays

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) appreciates and respects the complexity in harmonizing several policies and laws regarding the pedestrian clearway and design, especially when dealing with various stakeholder needs. Furthermore, we compliment the new patio designs and options included in the report as these embrace modernization and offer flexibility to those that are able to see benefits.

The original staff report included rigid pedestrian straight thru clearance way recommendations that would see several restaurants lose many patio seats and some their entire patio.

The addition of allowing a change in direction of a pedestrian clear way of up to 20 degrees along a street block is welcomed and is a sensible allowable requirement.

Reducing patio seating limits the number of diners which decreases revenues in a razor thin profit margin operation that depends on that extra revenue to be sustainable. Importantly, it is vital for the City of Toronto to be a vibrant destination for locals and visitors alike. Protecting the existence of outdoor patios, including iconic tourism hubs such as the Entertainment Theatre District and The Danforth, must be high on the priority list beyond the grandfathering rule of 2025.

Our organization has been a proponent of the Provincial AODA standards and we continue to be active in ensuring barriers are removed in achieving an enclosed society but even the Provincial standards guide municipalities to follow the new accessible standards only when a municipality undertakes street and boulevard renovations.

ORHMA recommends accepting the proposed report pedestrian clearance standards, allowing the 20 degree change in the direction.

Furthermore, to ensure all existing patios not meeting the proposed requirements are given the design support and funds needed to comply with the new By-law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elenis", written over a white background.

Tony Elenis
President & CEO
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association