

From: [Sara Anghel](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Input from Toronto Hotel Industry on Long-Term Financial Plan - request to speak
Date: August 23, 2023 9:30:49 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Dear Ms Regan, Below please find correspondence sent to Mayor Chow. This correspondence has also been sent to the entire executive committee councillors. I would ask that it be included as part of the item being discussed. And if there is an opportunity, I would like to briefly speak to the Committee to make a presentation.

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SERVING THE HOTEL INDUSTRY SINCE 1925

From: Sara Anghel
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 5:02 PM
To: mayor_chow@toronto.ca
Cc: michal.hay@toronto.ca; Jim Wielgosz <jwielgosz@gha.com>
Subject: Input from Toronto Hotel Industry on Long-Term Financial Plan

Dear Mayor Chow,

On behalf of Toronto's hotel industry, I am pleased to introduce myself and share feedback ahead of the August 24th Executive Committee meeting.

The GTHA represents 150 hotels in the Toronto region, with approximately 36,000 guest rooms and 32,000 employees. Pre-pandemic, our industry produced \$1.5 billion economic activity for the province of Ontario, over 90% of which was retained in the Greater Toronto Area. The industry also paid nearly \$1 billion in salaries and wages and contributed \$582 million in federal and provincial taxes, with a further \$142 million generated in municipal taxes.

While demand for travel and tourism has bounced back to healthy levels, our members continue to face challenges such as competing with other cities to draw major events and conventions to Toronto; ensuring high-quality transit and other public infrastructure; and finding skilled workers to pursue careers in our industry. Our members are also proud residents whose families live, work, and play in the Greater Toronto Area; given this, we are deeply committed to nurturing and growing Toronto's vibrant tourism and culture sectors.

In the context of City finances, the hotel industry is concerned about the recent decision to increase the Municipal Accommodations Tax from 4% to 6%. Other potential surtaxes and levies, such as the proposed parking levy and municipal sales tax, would only further erode the industry's recovery and hurt Toronto's competitiveness vis-à-vis other major cities.

Specifically, we **request that the Executive Committee amend the report to stipulate that the GTHA be consulted on recommendations 5b (commercial parking levy) and 7a-b (environmental reporting)**. Both these measures would directly impact our hotel members and they can provide valuable insight into potential effects.

I ask that you carefully weigh the challenges the hotel industry is facing and how further taxation could deeply hurt Toronto's tourism economy. I would welcome a meeting to expand on these concerns.



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