

February 29, 2024

Her Worship Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto

**RE: Proposed Commercial Parking Levy Discussion at February 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Dear Mayor Chow,

On behalf of the Greater Toronto Hotel Association, I write to reiterate our industry's concerns with the proposed new levy on commercial parking in the City of Toronto.

The Greater Toronto Hotel Association represents 150 hotels in the Toronto region, with approximately 36,000 guest rooms and 32,000 employees. Pre-pandemic, our industry generated \$1.5 billion economic activity in 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 in municipal taxes.

I spoke to the Executive Committee last summer to warn about the effects of this new tax on the tourism sector. Even though travel and tourism demand has recovered to healthy levels, our hotels still face headwinds such as attracting major events and conventions to Toronto; providing high-quality transit and other public infrastructure; and recruiting skilled workers to work in our industry.

With the recent increase in the Municipal Accommodations Tax (MAT) from 4% to 6%, Toronto ranks among the highest-taxed tourist destinations in North America. This increase was made without any consultation with our industry. Adding yet another tax in the form of the proposed commercial parking levy would only erode our economic recovery and hurt Toronto's competitiveness with other major cities. **The Greater Toronto Hotel Association strongly recommends that the City exempt hotel properties from any parking levy.**

Sincerely,



Sara Anghel  
President & CEO  
Greater Toronto Hotel Association

Cc: Members of Executive Committee