

July 18, 2025

Toronto City Council  
City of Toronto  
100 Queen St W  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Subject: Support for Streamlining Patio Permit Process to Help Small Businesses Thrive**

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA), I am writing to express our strong support for amending the patio permit process. The current bureaucratic delays in the permit renewal process are causing significant challenges for small businesses, particularly during the short summer season when outdoor patios are essential for their operations.

The lengthy public notice and objection process often results in extended delays, preventing businesses from opening their patios on time. These delays impact the ability of restaurants, hotels, and other establishments to generate the revenue they rely on during the warmer months. As a result, businesses are forced to miss out on vital income and lose critical opportunities to engage with customers.

We urge City Council and the Mayor to increase the threshold for objections required to refuse a patio permit. This change would allow for a more efficient approval process, ensuring that more patios are automatically approved while reserving further review for only the most contentious cases. A streamlined process will help businesses stay operational, avoid unnecessary disruptions, and support Toronto's economic recovery.

Thank you for considering this important issue. We look forward to your support in creating a more efficient and business-friendly environment for small businesses in Toronto. Sincerely,



Tony Elenis  
President & CEO  
ONTARIO RESTAURANT HOTEL & MOTEL ASSOCIATION

**About ORHMA:**

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) is the largest provincial hospitality association in Canada. With over 4,000 members, representing more than 11,000 establishments across the province, ORHMA is uniquely positioned to represent the issues that most impact your business. ORHMA represents the industry's interests at both the Provincial and Municipal levels of government.