

February 3, 2026

Mayor Olivia Chow
Mayor, City of Toronto
Sent via email: mayor_chow@toronto.ca

Subject: ORHMA Support for CC37.5 – Extension of Alcohol Service Hours During 2026 Winter Olympics

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

We are writing in advance of City Council's consideration of Item CC37.5 on February 4, 2026. On behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA), we are pleased to express our support for Item CC37.5 – Team Canada Olympic Spirit(s): Extension of Alcohol Sales and Service Hours During the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics.

Toronto is home to approximately 8,000 restaurants and a hospitality sector that employs tens of thousands of residents. Despite its importance to the city's economy and communities, the sector continues to face significant financial pressures, including rising operating costs, labour shortages, and ongoing recovery challenges.

The proposed temporary extension of alcohol sales and service hours to begin at 6:00 a.m. from February 5 to February 22, 2026, is a practical, low-risk measure that would allow restaurants and cafes that choose to participate to meet early-morning demand created by the time difference with Italy, increase revenues, support jobs, and provide welcoming spaces for residents and visitors cheering on Team Canada.

This targeted, time-limited approach balances economic opportunity with responsible regulation and demonstrates the City's continued commitment to supporting local businesses during a globally significant event.

ORHMA respectfully urges Toronto City Council to approve the Mayor's recommendations in Item CC37.5.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Toronto's hospitality sector.

Sincerely,



Tony Elenis, President & CEO
Ontario Restaurant Hotel Motel Association
telenis@orhma.com