



September 1, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg., Rm 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Urgent: Moratorium Extension on Commercial Tenant Evictions

Dear Premier:

Thank you for your commendable leadership guiding the Province of Ontario during these tough times. I appreciate the many challenges your government has been faced with stemming from this health and economic crisis.

We all know the dismal climate the hospitality sectors are confronted by but the next few months are critical to the sustainment of over 50% of restaurants.

Apart from the COVID-19 direct pressures, we are approaching the phasing-out of the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program for those enrolled in it. Most restaurant owners have been struggling without a workable rent program and are reaching their limit. Furthermore, due to the approaching of cold weather we are transitioning from outdoor patio eating into eating indoors and are expecting very low customer counts.

I'm bringing to your attention the pressing need to extend the commercial eviction protection for tenants. This will offer a lifeline to restaurants to move beyond a potential second wave of COVID-19. We are hoping that Ontario will overcome the wave supporting consumer trust in eating indoors as well building government's confidence to expand indoor seating capacities. This is one opportunity that should not be ignored. Perhaps by then a workable rent program will be implemented.

Recommendation:

Please help restaurants make it to the other side past the second wave of COVID-19 by placing a temporary commercial eviction for tenants who were in good standing with their landlords prior to the virus pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. Without an immediate assistance most of Ontario's restaurants will be closed down in the coming months and a huge economic generator and job employer will disappear.

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 (ORHMA)

cc: Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction