



Creating awareness for the prevention of harassment

OTEC & ORHMA launch awareness and training program to stop sexual violence and harassment in Ontario's hospitality industry.

Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) in cooperation with OTEC has announced an advanced training and awareness program to prevent sexual violence and harassment in the hospitality industry. This program will deliver expert knowledge through two online learning modules, five case studies on successful industry practices, one manager's toolkit and an overall awareness building campaign.

"We are pleased to be a part of such a revolutionary program," says Victoria Behune, President & CEO, OTEC. "The training modules we are developing contain critical data and information that will help positively impact the hospitality industry."

With the presence of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, the **Stop It!** prevention program will allow hospitality managers and frontline workers to gain the skills and insight needed to recognize and appropriately handle high risk situations of assault and harassment. The training is funded by the Government of Ontario as part *It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*.

"We are committed to lead an action plan of initiatives aimed to stop sexual violence and harassment in Ontario's hospitality industry," says Tony Elenis, President & CEO for ORHMA. "Harassment is present in every industry and the hospitality industry is not immune to it. We will work with our partners, key stakeholders and industry employers to create awareness, and through training, provide the necessary tools to ensure a safer workplace, respectful for all."

"Sexual violence and harassment can happen anywhere, but we know that Ontarians want to put a stop to it when they see it," says Tracy MacCharles, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. "The hospitality sector is showing great leadership by not shying away from this issue and providing its workers with the tools they need to intervene."

In Canada, less than 10% of sexual assaults are reported to the police. By providing a customized program and a targeted awareness campaign for the tourism and hospitality sectors, managers will learn how to support their frontline teams to cultivate a safe and social workplace, and support survivors of sexual violence and harassment.

Owner operators and human resource managers will have the resources and tools needed to incorporate training into operational policies and procedures in businesses, restaurants, bars, hotels, motels and entertainment venues across Ontario. The hospitality industry has the opportunity to become a leader in ensuring patron and workplace safety.

For more information about the **Stop It!** program please contact:

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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, the 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. Through our specialized in-house government relations experts, our provincial Board of Directors and our local Regional Boards, the Association provides pertinent and timely advice on industry-specific issues to politicians across the province. The Association's dedicated and professional Membership Team provides ORHMA members with meaningful cost-saving programs and unique educational services.

ORHMA is dedicated to fostering a positive business climate for Ontario's hospitality industry, while providing value-added services to its members.

ABOUT OTEC:

OTEC is an Ontario-based independent, not-for-profit training, consulting & workforce development organization that delivers high quality, creative and branded solutions for the development and growth of a professional, skilled workforce. It is the leading source support for communities to build workforce capacity and for companies to attract, retain, and develop high performing employees and become Employer of Choice organizations.

OTEC is the premier source for Customer Service training and strategy development, Tourism Ambassador training, leadership skills training and certifications and education products and services for tourism, hospitality and service oriented organizations in a wide range of industry sectors both nationally and internationally.

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