



HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION DES HÔTELS DU CANADA

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Anthony Pollard
President
Hotel Association of Canada
Tel: (613) 237-7149
pollard@hotelassociation.ca

For Immediate Release:

Government of Canada Recognizes Seasonal Nature of the Lodging Industry

March 21, 2016 - Ottawa – The Hotel Association of Canada applauds The Honourable MaryAnne Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour for recognizing the seasonal nature of the lodging industry and authorizing tourism businesses temporary foreign workers for up to a six month period.

“We are particularly pleased that the government has recognized the seasonality of our industry which now allows us to better fulfill our staffing requirements”, said Tony Pollard, HAC President. “This recognition of the seasonality of the lodging industry lends itself directly to the Hotel Association of Canada long held position that Canada requires a Seasonal Lodging Worker Program”.

Tony Pollard met with Employment Minister MaryAnne Mihychuk on February 18, 2016 and pointed out the reforms of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program made in 2014 limit foreign workers to 10 percent of a company’s work force in lower paying jobs and prohibits employers from hiring in regions of high unemployment. In his discussions with the Minister he underlined that in most communities with an unemployment rate above 6 percent, hotels cannot qualify for the program and that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program needs to be overhauled to take into account the demands of seasonal businesses including hotels.

The Government of Canada has responded positively. Program changes from last Friday will assist hoteliers across Canada.

About the Hotel Association of Canada

The [Hotel Association of Canada](http://www.hotelassociation.ca) is the effective voice of the Canadian Hotel & Lodging industry. For over 100 years, it has worked to enhance the prosperity of the Industry through strong member engagement, effective advocacy, and the provision of value added programs and services. The Hotel Association represents the more than 8,100 hotels, motels and resorts that encompass the \$17.5 billion Canadian hotel industry which employs 288,000 people across Canada