



HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA  
ASSOCIATION DES HÔTELS DU CANADA

**October 17, 2017**

**Hotel Association of Canada Statement on Oxfam Report on Housekeepers in Global Tourism Sector**

The Hotel Association of Canada was disappointed with the technically weak and inconsistent report that erroneously linked the working standards of housekeepers in Canada and housekeepers in Thailand and the Dominican Republic. This report is a transparent publicity stunt funded by a large North American Union seeking more membership and does not fairly compare the conditions in different international labour markets or even the conditions of employees in Canada versus contractors with far less protection and security.

The media materials make sweeping accusations against the Canadian employment market based on studies from other markets with incomplete and weak data. The report's weaknesses do not paint an accurate or balanced picture, being based on only 40 interviews with union leaders and some housekeepers.

The Hotel Association of Canada and its members take this issue very seriously and have a number of compliance measures in place to not only ensure high health and safety standards, but also employee satisfaction. Many hotels have brought in specialized tools to assist with cleaning, such as those that are ergonomically-friendly, and have made great strides to reduce the use of chemicals for employees, guests and the environment.

Hotels in Canada proudly employ over 300,000 people across the country. All of these employees are under the full protection of provincial and federal employment law with programs that are robust and comprehensive. This includes significant benefits such as fair compensation, regulated breaks, employment insurance, CPP, vacation pay and a wide range of human rights and labour protections. Canadian law also protects workers' rights to unionize, which is not the case in other international markets.

The hotel sector in Canada is extremely proud to be the first employment opportunity for thousands of Canadians entering the employment market and a career path for thousands more. Hotels make significant investments in training and skill development for their employees – skills that build confidence and careers. Employee satisfaction and the health and safety of guests and staff will always be a priority for hotels.