

PRESS RELEASE**IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Here for Hospitality****Hospitality Training Centre pivots to respond to industry needs during COVID 19 crisis.**

Toronto, April 21, 2020 – The Hospitality Workers Training Centre (HWTC) is introducing a Rapid Response Centre for thousands of hospitality and food service workers who have been displaced by the COVID-19 crisis. The Centre, the first to launch in Canada, will offer a suite of on-line resources and supports as well as a virtual career counselling service during the COVID-19 crisis. HWTC's COVID-19 Rapid Response Resource Centre website www.hospitalitytrainingcentre.com will launch on April 20, 2020.

Hospitality workers and employers visiting HWTC's Rapid Resource Centre will find an experienced team ready to help with financial benefits, food security, emergency housing issues and mental health resources. In addition, HWTC will provide one-on-one supports including service referrals, career counselling and employment services through safe communication channels like phone, and e-mail.

Mandie Abrams, HWTC'S Executive Director, notes "COVID-19 preventive measures are keeping a large majority of us safe. However, these measures have resulted in massive job losses for hospitality and food service workers." In response, the Hospitality Workers Training Centre (HWTC) is reorienting its 16+ years of experience as a non-profit sector-based workforce development

organization to focus on providing GTA hospitality workers and employers with practical and effective supports and tools.

The Hospitality Workers Training Centre was established as a result of the SARS crisis in 2004, with the mission of providing supports and resources to hospitality workers and employers during the crisis and through the recovery. Abrams underlined “over the years, HWTC has changed approaches to ensure that our programs and services adapt and remain relevant to the needs of the industry,” and promised, “We will do the same to support workers and employers throughout COVID-19.”

About the Hospitality Workers Training Centre

HWTC provides free-of-cost training to new entrant job seekers and upskill training to existing workers for employment and career development. Working with employers, labour organizations, social service agencies and job seekers, HWTC has connected more than 1000 job seekers and more than 800 industry workers to high-growth opportunities across the sector.

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