

For Immediate Release:

December 17, 2008

### **OTEC to Provide National Food Safety Training Program**

OTEC, Ontario's tourism and hospitality training and human resource organization expands its range of workshops to serve the needs of the Food Service Industry.

The NFSTP (National Food Safety Training Program) was developed by the Canadian Restaurant & Foodservices Association (CRFA) in response to a growing demand for food safety training that meets the needs of foodservice operators from coast-to-coast. Beginning in January 2009, OTEC will begin offering NFSTP training to the public at its Toronto Training Centre.

Designed to train and certify quick-service, full-service, chain and independent operators and employees to a national standard of food safety, NFSTP was launched in 2004 to provide a nationally recognized food safety certification program at an affordable price.

Vicki Lymburner, OTEC's President and CEO explains that the NFSTP training is a natural extension to the workshops OTEC currently delivers into the industry. OTEC has been integrating NFSTP training into the "National Ready to Work" employment preparation program since 2005. It represents one of the foundation certificates secured by "Ready to Work" participants seeking a career in tourism and hospitality. OTEC recently worked in partnership with Kevin Freeborn, Freeborn and Associates, to train 3 new "Ready to Work" facilitators on how to integrate NFSTP training into the program curriculum. Adam Morrison, OTEC's Manager, Partnership Programs states that "OTEC will work with our delivery partners to expand this important employment preparation program through a network of regional industry-targeted service hubs throughout the Province."

As the training supplier to a range of clients including accommodations, restaurants, convention centres, attractions, education and healthcare institutions, employment and social serving agencies, associations, and casinos, the NFSTP program will complement OTEC's emergent national standards and certifications for food service and hospitality workers. The NFSTP content is based on the CRFA's Food Safety Code of Practice, and is a comprehensive review of food safety issues and safe food handling practices, including: Food Safety Hazards (Parts I and II); Facilities and Equipment Design; Control of Hazards Following the Flow of Food; Sanitation and Pest Control; and Employee and Visitor Issues.

21 Four Seasons Place

Suite 300

Toronto, Ontario

M9B 6J8

Tel: 416-622-1975

Toll-Free: 1-800-557-6832

Fax: 416-622-7476

OTEC recognizes there are several benefits to offering this program in addition to the 40 other workshops OTEC provides. Ms. Lymburner says that “first, it’s the law, and many jurisdictions including Toronto and Hamilton have mandated food handler certification. These jurisdictions have recognized NFSTP as an accredited program and OTEC hopes to serve the needs of these, and other communities, by offering a central training location at OTEC’s head office or onsite at businesses”. The training is based on Canadian regulations and NFSTP was developed based on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s Food Retail and Food Service Regulation and Code. The course was developed with the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the CFIA.

OTEC will be delivering the one day workshops at the **OTEC Toronto Training Centre. 2009 dates include: January 20; February 17; March 24; April 21; May 26; June 23rd. The cost per person is \$89.00 p.p. + tax.**

For further information contact Lauren Griesbach at OTEC; [lgriesbach@otec.org](mailto:lgriesbach@otec.org) or 416-622-1975 ext. 210.

### **About OTEC**

OTEC is an independent, not-for-profit training and human resource development organization which has evolved from the 2005 consolidation of the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC) established in 1991, and Customer Service Excellence Corporation (CSEC) established in 2001. Originally formed through a partnership with industry, government, labour and education to offer training programs, standards, certification and employment development programs for the tourism and hospitality sectors, the organization continues with these mandates, but has expanded to provide an extensive range of “Customer Service & Management” training programs for a variety of sectors and clients.

OTEC is also Ontario’s representative on the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council (CTHRC), the national sector council for tourism, funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), and is the tourism sector council organization for the Province of Ontario representing the labour, skills development, training, and human resource issues of the sector.

**For more information on OTEC’s products and services please go to:**

[www.otec.org](http://www.otec.org)

OTEC

21 Four Seasons Place, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario, M9B 6J8  
416-622-1975