



UNITE HERE Local 40

UNITE HERE Local 40  
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March 22, 2022

Dear Mr. Vivek Sharma,

We are writing in response to the comments you made at the B.C. Tourism and Hospitality Conference in Richmond on March 9. We are hotel housekeepers represented by UNITE HERE Local 40, BC's hospitality workers union. We are the women who spent most of our lives cleaning rooms, cooking and washing dishes, and greeting and serving guests in hotels.

We are appalled and offended by your sexist remarks on March 9. Our housekeeping and dishwashing hotel jobs helped us support our families, pay rent, and put food on the table for decades. We're the ones who built this province's tourism and hospitality industry on our backs. And we're the ones leading the fight for a better future for all workers in this sector, especially during this pandemic. We don't think our hard work and our many years of service to guests should be seen as a joke.

Mr. Sharma, you said that you want "to learn and contribute to making the tourism and hospitality sector a safer place" for women and other underrepresented groups. We're giving you a chance to make amends. On behalf of all women working in B.C.'s hospitality industry, we invite you to meet us on the Hilton Metrotown picket line and clean rooms with us.

As much as your actions caused harm, industry leaders like you have the opportunity to listen, unlearn, and ultimately redeem yourself. That's why we're extending this invitation to you so you can learn firsthand what our jobs are like. Perhaps you'll gain a deeper understanding of what we do in the hospitality industry.

Please contact us at [updates@unitehere40.com](mailto:updates@unitehere40.com) if you're interested in meeting us. We look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,  
Locked out Hilton Metrotown housekeepers

Cc: British Columbia Hotel Association and Tourism Industry Association of BC