

# TONY KO

Front End Web Developer

Richmond Hill, ON

+1 647.300.9787  
tony@htko.ca

www.htko.ca

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter is an **application for a full time position with rate increase**. After some deliberation, I've come to the conclusion that **I want to pursue longer employment with Brandfire**. My key reasons are my current job responsibilities, my current contract despite the length of my stay, and further intellectual growth.

Although my official role here is Front End Developer, my **responsibilities include Full Stack Developer tasks, as well as PM and QA tasks**. On many of my past projects, I was responsible for building the backend, database design and sysop tasks, using **technologies traditionally not part of front end**. Arguably, I'm working beyond my job description, but I am happy to do so. My dev responsibilities include:

- Frontend: Ractive.js, Vue.js, Responsive SASS / CSS, Gulp.js, AODA AA compliancy.
- Image production: Sketch, Draw.io, Photoshop, Illustrator.
- **Backend**: Building Node.js, Koa.js, PHP and Front end rendering (Ractive.js, Vue.js) backends.
- **Database Design**: Devising MySQL structure, processing flat data stores such as JSON, CSV, Arrays.
- **API Design**: REST API and auth for contest entry / verification, and reporting back ends.
- **Sysops**: Docker Container Deployment, Continuous Integration & Deployment (CI/CD), data scraping.

During my **1.5 years here**, Brandfire was unable to give me a full time position. Despite incredibly **high demand for Front End in the industry**, it feels that I'm **bit overlooked** despite what I offer to the company. However, I have stayed because I like the team and my work. To recap: I've been with a **recruitment company for 1 year as freelancer**, far longer than Brandfire's 3 month probationary period, as well as Networker's 6 month buyout period:

- I've now been on **contract over 6 months**.
- I've seen many people join us and hold full time positions **based on their merit**.
- I've saved the department several times on emergency tasks during **off work hours**.

Through each attempt for a new contract, I still end up staying at Brandfire because **I do see opportunities for growth here**. I still feel intellectually engaged and **I like the projects and team** that I work with. I do feel like there are new tech opportunities for me to build here too. These are the reasons I want to continue at Brandfire. I think **both Brandfire and I benefit from this relationship** and we can grow that.

In conclusion, I do think **full time and rate increase** would be a **fair and mutually beneficial** change for both Brandfire and I. I perform beyond my responsibilities as Front End Developer, I have met the criteria for time with the company, and I do see future opportunities for growth.

Best,



Tony

# TONY KO

Front End Web Developer

Richmond Hill, ON

+1 647.300.9787  
tony@htko.ca

www.htko.ca

## PROJECTS

### **Spectrum Brands - babyjogger.ca - Mar 17' to Jun 18'**

Built multilingual catalog site from ground up, replicating US design via Ractive.js / Handlebar.js / SASS. Created new a catalog module to list, filter, fav, compare and share products, as well as a new e-comm' style 360, photo, video viewer for product pages. Implemented with senior back end dev; Edit-On-Spot & table CMS, custom Koa.js & MySQL backend.

### **General Electric - monogram.ca - Jul 17' to Apr 18'**

Built multilingual catalog site from new Sketch designs via Ractive.js / SASS. In conjunction with front end dev; created Gulp.js scripts to process US API & site dump into indexed and template ready data. Rewrote previously built catalog and media viewer for product pages. Rendered and served with custom Koa.js & JSON backend.

### **Canada Dry - realcanadianthanksgiving.ca - Aug 17' to Nov 17'**

Coordinated with front end dev to create new coupon dispensing contest via Ractive.js / PHP / SASS. Refactored WIP contest engine to use 'functional' concepts for easier bugfixes. Rewrote API calls / endpoints to account for net errors and invalid data attacks. Created contest auto open / close to expedite launch. Backend working with over 7.5M pins & 50K coupons.

### **Weiser - weiserlock.com - Nov 17' to Present**

Built, alongside front end dev, catalog site from new Photoshop designs via Ractive.js / Pug.js. Built Node.js script to convert CSV 'step-pull' files from client, into indexed, template ready data. Created Ractive.js / SASS templates, rendered by Gulp.js with processed data into HTML files. Refactored previously built catalog and media viewer to handle over 1.2K products.

### **Toffifee - spin2win.brandfire.ca - Oct 18' to May 18'**

Created multilingual instant-win contest site with spin-to-win mechanic, based on new Vue.js / Pug.js. Utilized GSAP.js library, to create spinning animation. Wrote new API calls / endpoints, Koa.js / MySQL backend with server logging and verification of contest times, entry data as focus. Rewrote contest auto open / close to match. Built reporting CMS for all entries.

### **Toyota - bringyourtoyotahome.ca - Mar 18' to Aug 18'**

Built high traffic instant-win contest site with parallax like scroll animations on landing. Based on spin2win's contest engine with Vue.js / Pug.js. Utilized GSAP.js timelines to coordinate animations. Built new report CMS to generate all weekly dealer and opt-in reports. Implemented docker containerization and continuous delivery (CD) to instantly deploy to live & staging.

### **Canada Dry - realcanadianthanksgiving.ca - Jun 18' to Present**

Built on previous thanksgiving contest based in Ractive.js / PHP. Implemented new Photoshop designs and new Google Tag Manager based analytics and event capture. Utilized continuous delivery (CD) to instantly deploy to staging. Over 7.5M pins & 50K coupons.

### **Toffifee - toffifee.bfmfg.ca - Aug 18' to Present**

Coordinate with AMs and Devs to ensure process & timelines are followed for unlock-to-win contest. Create testplan, budget breakdown and spec documentation. Perform cross browser, contest entry and completed bugfix QA following test plan and timeline. Manage YouTrack ticketing for all projects.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Ko's Interior Design, Toronto - Jul 13' to Sep 16'**

*Interior Designer*

Design and manage projects in coordination with clients, contractors, suppliers, and schedules. 40+ Projects.

### **Brandfire Marketing, Markham - Apr 17' to Present**

*Intermediate Front End Developer*

Develop compelling multilingual full stack web applications from the ground up for international clients.

## EDUCATION

### **OCAD University, Toronto - 13' to 16'**

*B.Des - Environmental Design, Completed 3 of 4 Years*

Interior, Architectural and Civil design.

### **freeCodeCamp, Remote - 16' to 17'**

*Certification - Front End Development, CSE*

SASS, REST Api, Algorithms and JS frameworks.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Tony and I worked together on several web projects at Brandfire Marketing Group, where he was the front-end developer and I was the QA/project coordinator. Tony was meticulous in his work. For all the tasks he was required to do, he would complete them in a timely manner. He was not one to just "do the job", instead he went above and beyond to ensure the work was well optimized and documented in a way that was easy to read.

In addition, Tony's insightful ideas and willingness to learn made him a great teammate for us. We loved having him on our team! It was truly a pleasure working with Tony and I highly recommend him as an exceptionally talented developer.

*- Billie Law*

When Tony joined us, we were looking for a intermediate front-end developer. He surpassed our wildest expectation by proving himself to be a high-calibre front-end developer and a competent back-end developer. Being a quick learner, he was able to master our unique technology stack and churning out quality code in no time. Giving general direction, he could work autonomously, yet he was forthcoming when hitting snags and worked with the team constructively to solve those problems. Tony is detail oriented, a thorough and diligent document writer. He will be a strong asset to any team.

*- Dirksen Liu*

As a Digital Project Manager there is always some concern about properly vetting a candidates' skills, work ethic and working style.

Tony exceeded the project teams expectations in that in addition to being extremely agile and strong in Front End Development, he is also strong in Back End Development which aided in expediting the project timeline and exceeding client expectations. He holds a strong design background and advanced knowledge of technical systems on both Mac and PC, and possesses ability to fluidly alternate between them.

Other qualities which he brought to the project and the team was a strong self-sufficiency, ability to manage his workload with minimal oversight, strong technical and communication competency, strong ability to work with cross-functional and cross-cultural teams and is extremely knowledgeable about the agile development process. His keen sense of UX and Design Patterns enabled him to fill gaps within the project team.

Tony is able to handle working on multiple concurrent and vastly varying projects with ease; and has always under-promised and over-delivered which makes him an extremely strong asset to any company or team.

*- Maritia Singh*