

## Nourishing Our Nation: Raising Our Voice in the 2019 Federal Election

**When foodservice thrives, so do our communities.** A thriving restaurant sector is critical to the well-being of communities across Canada, contributing to jobs, investment, innovation, tourism, charitable causes and spaces for people to come together. Working with Restaurants Canada, the next federal government can help foodservice businesses continue **#NourishingOurNation**.

### KEY ISSUE: Culinary Tourism

Tourism is a key pillar of the Canadian economy and an important contributor to Canada's international reputation. The federal tourism growth strategy unveiled this year emphasized the critical role of culinary tourism for promoting the Canadian brand at home and abroad and supporting the advancement of Canada's tourism industry.

The strategy, which represents a culmination of effort at many levels, was developed to take a whole-of-government approach to addressing barriers to growth in the tourism and hospitality sector, such as lack of investment coordination and labour shortages.

The strategy committed to empower communities of all sizes through short- and long-term measures by:

- providing \$58.5 million through the Canadian Experiences Fund to enhance Canada's tourism products and experiences in five categories, including culinary and farm-to-table experiences;
- developing tourism investment groups where all levels of government will collaborate to invest more efficiently while meeting local priorities and identifying ways to raise private investment; and
- creating a new Tourism Industry Economic Strategy Table to provide a platform for government and industry leaders to collaborate on overcoming sector challenges.

### Restaurants Canada is calling on the next federal government to:

- **Continue strengthening the role of foodservice as part of a national tourism strategy.** Foodservice is not only the number 1 source of tourism jobs, our industry is an integral part of every Canadian hospitality experience. Restaurants Canada looks forward to working with the next federal government to ensure that our industry's unique strengths are leveraged and our challenges are addressed as part of efforts to boost Canadian tourism.

### CANADA'S FOODSERVICE SECTOR AT A GLANCE

- Our country's 98,000 foodservice businesses generate \$89 billion in economic activity each year.
- For every dollar spent in a restaurant, \$1.85 is spent in the rest of Canada's economy.
- With roughly 1.2 million workers, foodservice is the fourth-largest employer in the country.



### For more information:

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