

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: Single-use items

Canada's restaurateurs know that environmental sustainability is important to their continued success. Nine out of 10 foodservice operators across the country have told us that they plan to continue or improve on their current level of environmentally sustainable operations over the next few years.

Single-use items pose a particular challenge for foodservice operators as Canadians are increasingly turning to delivery and takeout over dining at a restaurant. While on-premise dining still accounts for most foodservice sales nationwide (totalling 53 per cent of overall revenues in 2018), on-premise sales have been losing market share to takeout and delivery orders.

Given this market reality, restaurants need solutions that reduce the environmental impacts of single-use items while allowing them to meet the needs of their customers in ways that are accessible and safe.

Restaurants Canada is calling on the next federal government to:

- **Take a whole-of-society approach to the issue, recognizing the need for consumer education.** Ultimately, the pressure for single-use items comes from consumers. Delivery foodservice sales totalled more than \$4.3 billion in 2018, a staggering 44 per cent increase over 2017.
- **Allow for reasonable timelines for alternative innovations to enter the market.** Restaurants need to be able to serve their customers in a safe, inclusive and cost-effective manner. With their average profit margin being less than 5 per cent, they need to be able to make choices that help not hurt their operations.
- **Build consensus and facilitate coordinated action across jurisdictions.** Evidence-based policies and national standards are needed for recycling, composting and waste management to avoid patchwork approaches, increase diversion from landfill and facilitate consumer education.

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:

David Lefebvre,
Restaurants Canada
Vice President, Federal and Quebec
DLefebvre@restaurantscanada.org
1-800-387-5649 ext. 6000
Twitter: @RestaurantsCA