

ONTARIO RESTAURANTS ARE UNDER ATTACK

Ontario's restaurant industry generates \$33 billion in economic activity, representing 4% of GDP. In Ontario this means more than 573,000 direct and indirect jobs and charitable contributions in the range of more than \$100 million dollars annually.

However, Ontario foodservice operations are struggling to survive with rising costs and burdensome regulations. Restaurants in Ontario maintain the lowest profitability in Canada at just 3.4%. Relative to other sectors of the economy where average profitability is roughly 10.1%. Whomever forms the next government in Ontario needs to look to improving conditions for the foodservice industry.

KEY ISSUE

Skills Shortages: Like many sectors, restaurateurs and foodservice operators need access to skilled labour. Restaurants Canada research identified that 73% of restaurateurs ranked access to skilled labour as a number one challenge.

Canada's strong economic performance has pitted industries against themselves, competing for employees, employers are faced with a 'perfect storm' in terms of recruitment challenges. Without access to a skilled labour, the sector will struggle.

ONTARIO FOODSERVICE STATS:

- **More than 500,000 Ontarians work in the foodservice industry**
- **Bill 148 will add \$1.8 billion dollars of new costs**
- **The new legislation will put 17,000 jobs at risk**
- **Restaurateurs in Ontario operate with the lowest margins in Canada at 3.4%**
- **The impact of this legislation will be most felt outside the GTA**

