

## Restaurant Realities: Raising Our Voice in Alberta

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### WHEN FOODSERVICE THRIVES, SO DO OUR COMMUNITIES

A thriving foodservice sector is critical to the wellbeing of communities across Alberta, contributing jobs, investment, innovation, tourism and spaces for people to come together. Unfortunately, many of Alberta's restaurants are struggling to survive due to a number of recent legislative and regulatory changes that have dramatically increased the cost of doing business in the province. Working together with Restaurants Canada, Alberta's next government has an opportunity to improve conditions for foodservice businesses so that they can continue contributing to healthy, vibrant communities.

### KEY ISSUE

**Municipal Property Taxes:** On top of the considerable increases to operating costs that recent changes to provincial legislation and regulations have imposed on Alberta's restaurateurs as they have been trying to rebound from an economic downturn, they have also faced considerable municipal commercial property tax increases and fees.

Foodservice business operators believe they are paying an unfair portion of municipal taxes versus residential residents. Many have been forced out of desirable areas due to the significant increases in commercial lease/property costs. Municipalities need to find better ways to get their operating budgets under control if they want to help restaurants stay open for business. Continuing to burden foodservice establishments with high property taxes is not a recipe for supporting exciting, dynamic cities.

**Restaurants Canada recommends:**

- ***Encouraging municipal governments to re-examine their property tax policies to reduce the tax burden on small businesses and capping commercial property taxes so that they don't exceed inflation rates until a fairer commercial/residential property tax formula is implemented.***

#### ALBERTA'S FOODSERVICE SECTOR AT A GLANCE

- Our industry includes 11,260 small businesses and generates \$11 billion in annual sales.
- For every dollar spent in a restaurant, \$1.85 is spent in the rest of Alberta's economy.
- With roughly 150,000 foodservice workers, our sector is the third largest employer in the province.



**For more information:**

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