

New Brunswick Election Brief: Workers' Compensation

WHEN FOODSERVICE THRIVES, SO DO OUR COMMUNITIES

A thriving foodservice sector is critical to the wellbeing of communities across New Brunswick, contributing jobs, investment, innovation, tourism and spaces for people to come together.

While foodservice businesses have benefited from steady traffic from tourism, the sluggish provincial economy has been a drag on the industry. Working with Restaurants Canada, government must help create an environment where foodservice businesses can prosper, thereby creating healthy, vibrant communities.

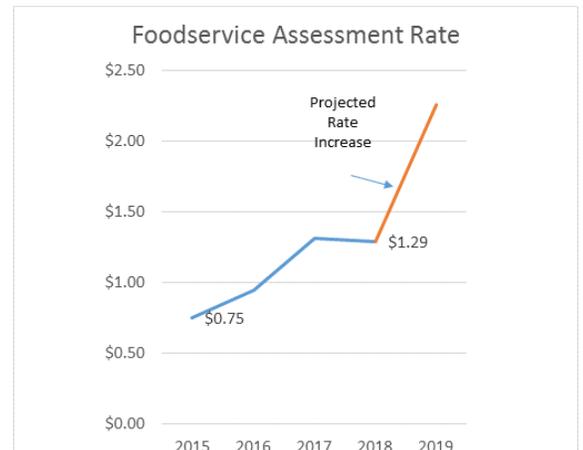
KEY ISSUE

Workers' Compensation: For many years, WorkSafeNB was one of the best run workers' compensation systems in Canada. But legislative changes in 2015 have caused costs to soar, resulting in higher assessment rates, despite a stabilization effort that depleted the accident fund surplus.

The escalating costs are not related to workplace safety; the number of workplace accidents has not increased, and in fact has declined by 3.5 per cent since 2001. Costs are increasing because legislative changes have led to claims lasting longer and the workers' compensation system paying for benefits not related to workplace injuries.

The 2015 legislative changes must be reversed.

This will return the system to balance, thus securing future payments for injured workers and protecting New Brunswick's employers from massive assessment rate increases.



The premiums that restaurants pay per \$100 of payroll went from \$0.75 in 2015 to \$1.29 in 2018. Rates are projected to increase by up to 75 per cent in 2019.

NEW BRUNSWICK FOODSERVICE STATS:

- Our industry includes 1,700 small businesses and generates \$1.5 billion in sales.
- For every dollar spent in a restaurant, \$1.85 is spent in the rest of the economy.
- With 23,500 employees, our sector is the fourth largest employer in the province — we employ more New Brunswickers than the farming, fishing, logging, mining, utilities and agriculture industries combined.



For more information:

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