

# NOURISHING COMMUNITIES: ENHANCING NEWCOMER OPPORTUNITIES IN RESTAURANTS

## THE OPPORTUNITY

There are currently one million open work permitted newcomers in Canada made up of asylum seekers, refugees and international students. Unfortunately, newcomers often face **significant barriers to full time Canadian employment** and large numbers of them are currently unemployed. The restaurant industry has **78,000 job vacancies across Canada** and a solid track record of supporting newcomers. This represents a win-win-win for governments, newcomers and the restaurant industry.

## FROM BARRIERS TO BENEFITS – HOW MATCHING PROGRAMS CAN EMPOWER NEWCOMERS AND THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

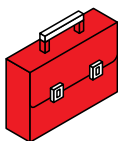
Targeted settlement supports are necessary to ensure newcomer success. Several programs to connect newcomers with employment opportunities and train them for success have been run in our country with strong success. An example of one of these successful programs was the **Destination Employment Pilot** run from 2019 until 2021. While the pilot did not fully take advantage of the opportunities in the restaurant industry, expanding the program to the broader restaurant industry would

increase its positive results for newcomers. The Destination Employment Pilot facilitated newcomers into the hospitality/ tourism industry by matching them with suitable jobs and providing training and skill development to enhance their employability and meet industry standards. On the job language training was a key component and benefit, resulting in more cost-effective English/French language education. A third-party evaluation of the pilot extolled its successes and recommended scaling up the program.

## THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE DESTINATION EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROGRAM WERE:



**CONNECT SKILLED NEWCOMERS  
WITH EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**ADDRESS LABOR  
SHORTAGES FOR  
KEY OCCUPATIONS**



**FACILITATE THE SUCCESSFUL  
INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS INTO  
THE CANADIAN WORKFORCE**



# NEWCOMERS THRIVE IN THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY.

The food and accommodation sector are the largest employer of immigrants and newcomers to Canada. Immigration is essential for Canada, providing economic, social, and cultural benefits.

Half of all Canadian restaurants are run by entrepreneurs who came here as immigrants and 31% of restaurant owners belong to visible minority groups.



## RESTAURANTS CANADA'S ASK:

Implement a government run program to match open work permit newcomers with opportunity for employment in the restaurant industry. **Please take action with the federal Minister at the upcoming May 10th, 2024 meeting in Ottawa.**

## SUCCESSFUL RESTAURANTS ARE THE HEARTS OF COMMUNITIES AND CANADIAN TOURISM.

At the heart of a thriving community is its restaurants and when restaurants thrive so do our communities. As **the country's fourth largest private sector employer**, it is imperative that labour market and workforce strategies prioritize the needs of small business, family-owned and national franchise establishments across Canada. Without an adequate supply of labour Canada's foodservice sector will be challenged, to operate at full capacity, hindering economic growth and our tourism product.



**WATCH OUR TABLE TALK VIDEO:  
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**RESTAURANTS CANADA**

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