



SMALL BUSINESS IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

CFIB'S 2019
Federal Small Business Platform

CFIB

**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

In business for your business.

As employers, economic drivers and pillars of their communities, small businesses are at the centre of the upcoming federal election. Every party should have a defined platform outlining how they will support small business priorities and competitiveness. CFIB has outlined the following recommendations that will help make Canada a place where entrepreneurs want to start and grow their business:

AFFORDABILITY:

the foundation of running a small business

- ✓ Halt or slow down additional CPP increases after 2019.
- ✓ Implement an EI credit which effectively lowers the rate for small businesses.
- ✓ Ensure that sales or transfers of small businesses to family members are not taxed more heavily than those to a third party.
- ✓ Repeal the federal carbon backstop and work with the provinces on customized approaches to climate change that will minimize the negative impacts on small business.
- ✓ Measure and cut red tape in policies, guidelines and legislation.
- ✓ Put in place a plan to balance the budget within the next five years.
- ✓ Support family-run small businesses by exempting spouses from the new family income splitting rules.

FINANCING: *the key to growing an SME*

- ✓ Bring more fairness to the credit card industry by ending processing fees on taxes, prepaid cards and returns.
- ✓ Close the gap between the credit card rates small businesses pay and those available to large firms.
- ✓ Ensure that the dispute resolution system for financial institutions is fair and transparent, and implemented by an independent, not-for-profit entity that has the authority to resolve complaints.

LABOUR: *having the right people for the job*

- ✓ Introduce a training tax credit that recognizes the investments made by SMEs in both formal and informal, on-the-job training.
- ✓ Create a pathway to permanent residency for Temporary Foreign Workers, such as CFIB's "Introduction to Canada Visa," to give foreign workers at all skill levels the opportunity to work with an employer as a step towards permanent residency.
- ✓ Ensure that SMEs are included in the development of a national Work Integrated Learning strategy.

WHEN SMALL BUSINESSES THRIVE, WE ALL BENEFIT

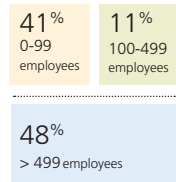
Small businesses are not only a vital part of our communities, they are an essential part of the Canadian economy as well.

Policies that support small business are integral to a successful and competitive economy.

SMALL BUSINESS

Backbone of the economy

52% of business-sector GDP in Canada.¹



Job creators

Small and medium-sized businesses were responsible for

85%

of net new jobs created between 2013 and 2017.²

Middle class

Business owners earning less than

\$40K

outnumber those making more than

\$250K

four to one.³

Put their employees first

1 out of 2

business owners had to stop paying themselves or family members to pay other employees.⁴

99.9%
OF CANADIAN
BUSINESSES
ARE SMALL⁵



86%
Business with 5 employees or less

10%
5-19 employees

3%
20-49 employees

1%
50-499 employees

0.1%
500+ employees

1. Source: Statistics Canada, Small, Medium-sized, and Large Businesses in the Canadian Economy: Measuring Their Contribution to Gross Domestic Product from 2001 to 2008, 2011.
 2. Source: Statistics Canada, Key Small Business Statistics, 2019.
 3. Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.
 4. Source: CFIB, Member Profile Survey, 3,151 responses, 2018.
 5. Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, June 2018.