



“Fundamentally, it will save you money.”

Simon Evans, President and CEO
British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association



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Safety is important because there is a cost savings attached in terms of how an owner/operator runs a business. It impacts the bottom line as well as the health and welfare of their employees.

Investing in your people is no different than investing in your plant, your machinery, your building, or your land. I've often used the analogy that we all have our business and financial plans, but do we have a people plan? And then breaking that down, do we have a safety plan? And that's where it ties back into the need to have safety meetings, safety training, and general safety awareness. Safety education, whether it be food safety or worker safety, has to be raised on a conscious level. If the awareness isn't there, they don't know that they don't know.

Young workers

Our industry is a young person's industry. So many people have started their careers in our industry — it is a wonderful way to start a career path. Consequently, it is the responsibility of our industry to start them on the right road. Often when you're 15 or 16, you think you're invincible and you'll come to no harm. Basic safety awareness is essential to the well-being of these young people. They have the responsibility to tell their boss if they think a situation looks unsafe. It is important that young people are able to take care of themselves, while at the same time, owners take the responsibility to create a safe environment. It is a joint venture.

Health and safety is a shared responsibility between the employer and employee. If managers demonstrate to their employees that they care about them, then their employees in turn will want to create a safe environment for their customers who are coming in — customers who are the lifeblood of our industry and business.

About BCRFA

The British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) represents an industry of over 10,000 operators across the province of British Columbia which contributes more than \$6 billion annually to the provincial economy. The restaurant and foodservice industry is one of BC's largest employers, creating 140,000 direct jobs and another 22,000 indirect BC jobs.

For its members, BCRFA provides cost savings, communications, and opportunities, but its numerous lobbying victories in Victoria have benefited the entire industry.

For more information, contact:

BCRFA

140 – 475 W. Georgia St.

Vancouver BC V6B 4M9

Phone: 604 669-2239

Toll-free: 1 800 663-4482

E-mail: service@bcrfa.com

Or visit their website at: www.bcrfa.com