



**University of Guelph  
Department of History**

**MA Thesis Defence**

**Student:** Gavin Hughes

**Date:** April 25, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Place:** Hybrid (contact [histaacademic@uoguelph.ca](mailto:histaacademic@uoguelph.ca) for location/virtual link).

**“The Glasgow Restaurant and Hotel Licensed Trade During The  
First World War”**

**Abstract**

The activities of the representative body of the Glasgow and District restaurant and hotel trade offers valuable insight into the strategies and effectiveness of smaller trade bodies in responding to restrictive legislation associated with the pre-war wartime state in the early years of the twentieth century. This analysis focuses on the Glasgow Hotel Keepers and Restaurateurs Association, which was a Scottish trade body formed in response to increased Temperance pressure with the 1906 Liberal election. It recorded steadfast opposition to restrictive legislation in the first five years of its existence, but its responses to a variety of Bills shows that it adopted a variety of strategies to attempt to mitigate the potential impact, and to persuade the government to recognize them as a separate interest from wide licensed trade. There was a notable shift in the attitude of the Association with onset of the war, as it publicly recognized the need for more restrictive legislation in the context of new levels of national mobilization, concern about ‘national efficiency’, and concerns about the welfare of families on the homefront A close of study of its activities before and during the war reveals that the Association achieved notable successes in securing access to parliamentarians, demonstrating pragmatism---especially during the war effort---and strategically aligning itself on occasion with, while at other times arguing for interests that it claimed were distinct from, the wider licensed trade.

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