

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Toronto, May 1st, 2025

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

On behalf of Restaurants Canada and the more than 100,000 foodservice establishments we represent nationwide, I extend my sincere congratulations on your electoral victory and your reappointment as Prime Minister of Canada. Thank you for taking the time to visit so many iconic restaurants during your campaign, from Montreal institutions like Schwartz's Deli and La Banquise, to family-owned restaurants like Rosie's Restaurant in Gander and Kozak Ukrainian Eatery in New Westminster, along with Canadian classics like Tim Hortons and A&W.

Canada's foodservice industry plays a vital role in the national economy, employing 1.2 million Canadians making us the fourth largest employer, operating in every community and contributing 6% of Canada's GDP. As we enter a new chapter under your leadership, we look forward to working collaboratively to advance economic resilience, community well-being, and affordability for Canadians.

As food costs continue to strain household budgets and consumer confidence is at a concerning low, we are advocating for a bold yet practical measure: the removal of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on all food, including restaurant meals. This is not only an important affordability measure for Canadians from all walks of life, but also a matter of tax fairness. While groceries are GST-exempt, prepared meals—including from restaurants, cafés, and takeout—are taxed, placing an inequitable burden on the 23 million Canadians we serve daily who rely on these services for convenience, accessibility, or necessity. This would also bolster the economy: the recent GST/HST holiday delivered a 7.5% surge in commercial foodservice sales, slashed bankruptcies by half and added 14,900 jobs in January.

We look forward to engaging your government on this issue and to working together to strengthen our industry's contributions to employment, innovation, and food security.

Congratulations once again, Prime Minister. We wish you great success in the important work ahead.

Elbows up,

Sincerely,



Kelly Higginson
President & CEO,
Restaurants Canada