



Friday, December 20, 2024

Hon. MP Ryan Turnbull
106-400 Dundas Street West
Whitby, ON L1N 2MY

Dear MP Turnbull,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce regarding the Federal government's temporary GST/HST holiday, which as you know is currently in effect from December 14, 2024, to February 15, 2025. While we understand the intention behind this policy, we believe it may present challenges for Whitby businesses and could have unintended negative consequences for their operations and revenue.

There are a few key concerns that we would like to highlight:

- **Limited Scope of Eligible Items:** The GST/HST exemption applies only to specific categories of goods, which can create confusion for businesses when determining which products are taxable. Currently, the CRA has not provided clear guidance on these distinctions, which may lead to compliance challenges and potential tax issues.
- **Administrative Challenges:** Implementing a tax holiday on such short notice required significant adjustments to point-of-sale systems and accounting processes. For retail businesses, particularly during the busy holiday season, these changes have resulted in added administrative burdens and increased costs.
- **Short Duration:** While the intent may be to offer temporary relief, the brief duration of the policy means businesses will incur costs not only for the initial implementation but also for the removal of the policy in February 2025. This short window may not provide lasting benefits and could further complicate operations.

Given these considerations, we respectfully advocate for a reassessment of this policy, as it may not be as beneficial to the businesses we represent as initially intended. We believe that addressing these challenges would better support the local economy and ensure a smoother transition for businesses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to any further discussion on how we can support our local businesses during this period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Scuse".

Andrew Scuse, President
Whitby Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors