



**For Immediate Release**  
**August 27, 2009**

## **De Dutch Takes a Stand on the HST**

**Surrey, BC:** De Dutch Pannekoek House Restaurants Inc. has publicly taken a stand against the proposed HST and announced its position in all eighteen BC restaurant locations on August 21<sup>st</sup> with the launch of a point-of sale campaign including menu covers as well as printed postcards addressed to the Premier and Finance Minister.

De Dutch President, Bill Waring says, "There has been a lot of discussion about the HST as proposed by the Provincial Government. Unfortunately, industry research and history indicate that some of the information currently being presented is not completely accurate. As a life-long BC resident, proud business owner and active member of the local foodservice sector, I believe it is pertinent to share information with our franchisees and customers regarding the real impact that this tax will have on everyone's livelihood. Each individual can then accurately decide whether or not they agree with the HST and act accordingly."

Bill Waring adds, "Based on industry findings, if the HST is implemented and the PST is applied to restaurant meals, you can simply expect to pay 7% more for every item on every menu at every foodservice outlet in the province. Come July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, we will all have 7% less to spend on restaurant meals because the government will be taking that money out of our pockets. This concerns me as a BC consumer, business owner and employer. Therefore, it is our main intent to stop the HST. If the Government however continues with its plan to implement the HST, we ask that the foodservice industry continue to be exempt from what would be the PST portion as other major food providers such as grocery stores will be."

To date, De Dutch Franchisees have reported vocal support from many customers and in several cases neighbouring businesses have asked to take some menu covers and postcards to feature and distribute within in their own businesses. De Dutch will continue to monitor customer feedback and report findings in all markets.

The thirty-four year old De Dutch franchise with 19 locations in Calgary, Alberta and BC's Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley, Okanagan, and Cariboo has successfully carved a niche in the competitive food service industry. While offering dinner at its Strawberry Hill location, De Dutch Pannekoek House specializes in breakfast, brunch and lunch, offering their customers a unique blend of European ethnicity in its menu items. The Pannekoek, a 12" in diameter Dutch-style pancake, is their signature dish and continues to draw loyal customers.

For more information and a listing of De Dutch locations, visit [www.dedutch.com](http://www.dedutch.com).

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### **For more information and jpg images of other event and De Dutch related photos:**

Nicole Poitras, Marketing Manager

De Dutch Pannekoek House Restaurants Inc.

Phone: 604.543.3101 • E-mail: [npoitras@dedutch.com](mailto:npoitras@dedutch.com)

Sandra Merk, Media Relations

Insight Productions

Phone: 604.535.9828 • E-mail: [srmerk@shaw.ca](mailto:srmerk@shaw.ca)

# OUR POSITION ON H.S.T.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media about the H.S.T. as proposed by the Provincial Government; some accurate, some not. The following is our position.

**There is little or no doubt that the H.S.T. will hurt the restaurant industry but to be clear the only reason it will hurt us is because it will hurt you first, the vast majority of British Columbia taxpayers (a.k.a. CUSTOMERS).** In the event that P.S.T. is applied to restaurant meals, you can expect to pay 7% more for every item on every menu at every foodservice outlet in the province. History has taught us that this will result in less frequent customer visits which will lead to less work and fewer jobs – some think as much as 12% less. Along with our customers, restaurant owners and workers will bear the brunt, but it will also impact others related to our industry including our suppliers and the contractors that build, maintain and renovate our restaurants. We think this is unfair.

If the Government is bound and determined to implement the H.S.T. we ask that the restaurant & foodservice industry continue to be exempt from the P.S.T. component, just as they have done with other major food providers such as grocery stores.

We also believe that if implemented, we as British Columbians will lose any influence we might currently have over this sales tax. We all know that the federal government serves at the will of Ontario and Quebec and if Ottawa decides that the whole country should “harmonize” with Ontario the tax will go from 12% to 13% or even higher with no accountability to British Columbians. We say no thank you!

In the last little while bullying has finally received the attention it deserves. Be it in the school yard, work place or in the streets it is clear bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Considering how the H.S.T. has come about and the action that has taken place so far, do you feel as bullied as we do?

The good news is that we still live in a democracy and **YOU can make a difference.** If you agree with us please write your MLA and make your feelings known or ask your server for one of our pre-printed post cards. Help yourself which in turn will help us.

Thank you,  
Bill Waring  
President  
De Dutch

Dear Sirs;

I am writing you today to inform you that **I am not in support of the British Columbia Government's intention to harmonize the P.S.T. with the G.S.T. particularly as it pertains to currently exempt sectors such as the restaurant and foodservice industry.** Please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

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stamp

The Premier of the Province of British Columbia  
The Finance Minister of the Province of British Columbia

Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 1X4