



November 23, 2024

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ONT K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of members and supporters across BC, we are writing about this week's announcement to eliminate federal sales tax on various products over the next two months.

Our BC Craft Farmers Co-Op (BCCFC) represents BC craft cannabis farmers, processors, independent retailers and medical licence holders. Our mission is to support members transitioning to the new legal market, maintain BC's global cannabis brand and ensure Canadian consumers continue to have access to high quality BC craft cannabis.

While we appreciate your efforts to make life more affordable for working Canadian families, we are concerned about your decision to omit cannabis from the list of exempted items while including much more harmful alcohol products.

Alcohol contributes to tens-of-thousands of Canadian deaths each year. The annual societal costs of sales and consumption are estimated at \$20 billion. The associated health-care costs exceed \$6 billion each year.

You can't say the same about cannabis. Health Canada has approved medical cannabis access for hundreds-of-thousands of Canadians from all walks of life. Numerous research studies have documented benefits. So why is your government favouring alcohol consumption and enterprise over legal cannabis businesses?

Since legalization, BCCFC has expressed concern that government policies are perpetuating stigmatization of cannabis, particularly compared to alcohol. We fear your department's decision is another unfortunate example of this unfairness.

We hope you will reconsider your original decision and include cannabis products in this new GST scheme. We are confident your positive response will lead to a greener and happier holiday season for millions of adult Canadian cannabis consumers and related businesses. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

Tara Kirkpatrick, President
BC Craft Farmers Co-Op