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News

## History of the GST

Late 1980s: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government pursues sales tax reform, saying it wants to replace the manufacturers' sales tax with the goods and services tax.

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Published on Tue Jan 01 2008

**Late 1980s:** Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government pursues sales tax reform, saying it wants to replace the manufacturers' sales tax with the goods and services tax.

**Jan. 24, 1990:** GST bill introduced in the House of Commons.

**Sept. 27, 1990:** Facing Liberal opposition to the GST in the Senate, Mulroney uses obscure constitutional provision to stack upper chamber with eight more Tories.

**Dec. 13, 1990:** After months of tense debate, the GST legislation is passed in the Senate.

**Jan. 1, 1991:** The 7 per cent GST goes into effect.

**Dec. 16, 1996:** Prime Minister Jean Chrétien apologizes for having given the impression during the 1993 campaign that Liberals would eliminate the GST.

**May 2, 2006:** The new Conservative government under Stephen Harper includes a one percentage point GST cut in its first budget; the reduction to 6 per cent comes into effect in July.

**Jan. 1, 2008:** GST officially drops from 6 per cent to 5 per cent.

*Compiled by Astrid Lange/Toronto Star Library.*

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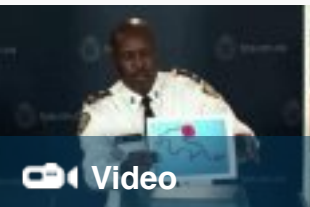
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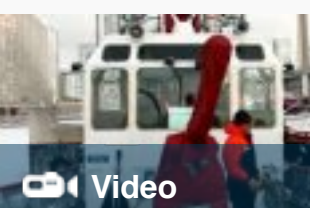
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