

Brad McKay – CIFST Emeritus Membership Award Acceptance Speech June 7, 2023

It's an honour to stand before you and accept this recognition from my peers and colleagues in the industry who work tirelessly to apply their talents to making this organization and the Canadian food industry stronger and stronger every year.

Tonight, I want to acknowledge four recognitions that I have received from CIFST.

The first is represented by the pin that I wear here on my lapel. It is the CIFST Past President's Pin awarded to a CIFST President after their term of office. It was a pleasure and a joy to serve for a 1 year term as your President as part of a four year term on the national board. To be given an opportunity to lead an organization as esteemed as CIFST has been one of the highlights of my professional career. There have been only 66 people in the world who can wear this pin and I wear it with pride at CIFST events and other events in the food industry.

The second is the President's Award presented to me by President Rickey Yada. It is a silver CIFST logo mounted on a green felt background in a polished wooden frame. I describe it to you so that you recognize it. If you have seen me on a zoom call or have been on one of my zoom presentations from my office, you will recognize it. It hangs over my right shoulder at the top of my other framed documents. It looks down over me as I work, and it inspires me every day to do the best work that I can.

The third is this Emeritus Award presented to me this evening. It is a touching tribute from the many people I work with and admire in the industry. It is gratifying that whatever small contribution I may have made over the years has been appreciated by the people I care about.

The fourth is perhaps the most meaningful of all of them all. It isn't a recognition so much as it is a gift. It's a gift from all of you here tonight and all of your colleagues as well. It's not something that sits on a mantle or something you hang on wall. You can't see it. But it sits right here, in my heart. And I think of it every time I think of this great organization. It's the feeling I get when I am surrounded by professionals who apply their intelligence, expertise, time and effort, passion and goodwill to making the Canadian food industry a great industry that grows and strengthens year after year. It is that feeling I get, from you, that is what I am truly and eternally grateful for.

I thank you.

Brad McKay