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## **Mohamad Fakih**

President and CEO  
*Paramount Fine Foods.*

In 2006, Mohamad Fakih, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist, purchased a nearly bankrupt restaurant and transformed it into what is now known as the fastest growing Middle Eastern Halal restaurant chain in North America – Paramount Fine Foods. Mohamad's determination to change perceptions surrounding Middle Eastern food has driven Paramount's brand success across Canada and Internationally as well as advancing the global Middle Eastern food trend.

A community leader, Mr. Fakih regularly participates in fundraisers and community events, supporting multiple causes and organizations including the Canadian Cancer Society, Islamic Relief worldwide, Sick Kids Hospital, the Make a Wish Foundation in Toronto and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in Canada. Both Paramount and Mohamad have donated generously to these charities and other non-profit organizations. Across his restaurants Mohamad offers discounts to all Emergency Service Workers in uniform to show appreciation for their service in our communities.

In past years, after the Canadian government decided to welcome 25,000 Syrian Refugees, Mr. Fakih made headlines in Canadian news when he travelled to Lebanon to visit the Islamic Relief Camps for Syrian Refugees to gain a deeper understanding of current relief efforts. Hoping to lead by example, Mohamad partnered with Ryerson University, Toronto for the Lifeline Syrian Challenge – allowing Paramount Fine Foods to fund employment support counsel to help recruit new Syrian Canadians during their job search.

Mohamad opened the doors of Paramount restaurants to the skills and drive many refugees bring to Canada by providing up to 150 jobs for the newcomers in his restaurants in 2017.

Mr. Fakh's determination to uphold values of giving back to communities where Paramount restaurants are located has resulted in a workplace culture of giving to others and to supporting one another. He has made philanthropy and giving back a key part of Paramount's culture and identity, setting it apart from other restaurants and businesses globally.

Mr. Fakh has been featured in several leading media outlets across Canada including CBC and CP24 Television, Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, Newstalk 1010, National Post and many more.

In February 2017, Mr. Fakh was acknowledged before the Canadian Parliament by the Prime Minister of Canada – Justin Trudeau - as an Exemplary Canadian Citizen and Businessman who successfully operated a Middle Eastern restaurant chain, and was applauded for his charitable work in January 2017 when he covered the funeral costs of six victims of a mass shooting at a Quebec City mosque. In his business affairs and community work, Mr. Fakh is viewed as a Canadian of Lebanese birth who brings together people of all origins in a global workplace, advancing our communities and helping each other to contribute to our societies. The Prime Minister of Canada, as well as the Premier of Ontario, and several Mayors have all visited Paramount Restaurants in Ontario.

Along with being named a finalist in the 2014 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Mr. Fakh made the cover of Canadian Immigrant Magazine for both his business success and inspiring life story. In addition, The Globe and Mail titled Mr. Fakh one of Toronto's "16 to watch in 2016". The list, released in January included other notable Canadians such as John Tory, Mayor of Toronto and Alessia Cara (International Artist). Toronto Life Magazine named Mr. Fakh as one of the Top 50 Most Influential People in 2017, 2019, and 2020 including him in a list of successful politicians,



international businessmen, media, and tech titans who are changing the world as we know it.

In 2018 Mohamad received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, from Ryerson University in Toronto. He also received the prestigious 2018 Employer Award for Newcomer Employment from IRCC- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

In May 2018, the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, launched a new partnership with Mr. Fakhri, to support the Agency's work for refugees globally and in Canada.

