

February 19, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

**Re: Tariffs
Our File 35.11.2**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

At its meeting held on February 10, 2025, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS at the Niagara borders, 9.1 million people crossed into the US from Canada, and 9.3 million people crossed from the US into Canada; and

WHEREAS a total of \$119.5 billion in goods transited the borders in Niagara: \$57.8 billion were exports to the US, and \$61.6 billion were imports to Canada; and

WHEREAS Niagara borders with the US accounted for 11.4% of total goods traded between Canada and the US; and

WHEREAS Premier Doug Ford has stated the proposed tariffs could cost Ontario 500,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS Ontario's upcoming Fortress Am-Can plan aims to bolster trade between Ontario and the U.S., highlighting key priorities such as national security, creating integrated and secure electricity grids, developing critical mineral supply chains, and advancing manufacturing supply chains and increased employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS the federal government has created the Canada-US Relations Council to assist in addressing potential U.S. tariffs, with representatives from the auto sector, unions, industry, and agriculture included; and

WHEREAS in 2023, 532 businesses in Niagara exported \$5.9 billion in goods to the US, and the US market accounts for 72% of total exports from Niagara

businesses, and in the City of St. Catharines, over 250 exporters and nearly 9,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines is a member of the Great lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, a growing coalition of more than 250 bi-national mayors, who continues to demonstrate how vital the marine economy to our city's, our region and our province; and

WHEREAS municipalities have traditionally been restricted by trade agreements from giving preference to "Buy Canadian" initiatives; and

WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines is actively working with local businesses and the Niagara Region to assess the potential impacts of the proposed U.S. tariffs and to develop strategies aimed at strengthening the local economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council calls on the provincial and federal governments to continue to work together on a response that protects the Canadian economy through measures such as financial aid programs for businesses impacted by tariffs, expanding export opportunities outside of the US market, push for exemptions and tariff reductions via diplomatic channels, and support domestic investment by increasing incentives for domestic automotive and EV production to preserve Ontario's competitive edge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council endorses and supports the Ontario government's Fortress Am-Can and request that all municipal organizations and mayors across the province also support this initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council asks the federal and provincial governments to remove any impediments to municipalities preferentially procuring from Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Honourable Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Josh Morgan, Chair, Big City Mayors' Caucus and Mayor of London
- Marianne Mead Ward, Chair, Ontario Big City Mayors and Mayor of Burlington
- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport

- Karen Redman, Chair, MARCO and Chair, Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- Niagara Region Municipalities
- Niagara Region MPPs
- Niagara Region MPs

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Donna Delvecchio, Acting City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
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cc: Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford
Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Melanie Joly
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Honourable Vic Fedeli
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Nate Erskine-Smith
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Paul Calandra
Chair, Big City Mayors' Caucus and Mayor of London, Josh Morgan
Chair, Ontario Big City Mayors and Mayor of Burlington, Marianne Mead Ward
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