



— **OBCM** —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

Motion in Support of Provincial and Federal Governments Negotiations with the U.S Government on Trade Tariffs

Moved by: Mayor Meed Ward - Burlington (OBCM Chair)

Seconded by: Mayor Alex Nuttall - Barrie (OBCM Vice Chair) and Mayor Josh Morgan - London (Chair of FCM's Big City Mayors Caucus)

February 7, 2025

Whereas the federal government is currently in negotiations with the U.S. government on their proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods exported to the U.S.; and

Whereas the Windsor-Detroit border crossing in Ontario is the busiest commercial border crossing between Canada and the U.S., handling approximately \$320 million in trade per day; and

Whereas if Ontario were a standalone country, it would be the U.S.'s third-largest trading partner with a near-perfect balance in two-way trade totalling CAD \$493 billion in 2023, employing millions of workers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas the Ontario government estimates that the impact of the tariffs on Canadian goods by the U.S. government could mean 450,000 - 500,000 Ontario jobs lost; and

Whereas the Ontario government has outlined several plans to combat the impact the proposed tariffs would have on Ontario including Fortress Am-Can which focus on strengthening trade between Ontario and the U.S. while bringing good jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas the federal government has also outlined several ways to address the current relationship with the U.S. including establishing the Council on Canada-U.S. relations to support the federal government as it negotiates with the U.S on tariffs, made up of representatives from the auto sector, unions, industry and agriculture; as well as negotiating enhancements to Canada's Border Plan with the U.S. that includes a Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering; and

Whereas Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) includes mayors and municipalities that are members of organizations such as the Ontario Auto Mayors Caucus, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Border Mayors Alliance, FCM's Big City Mayors Caucus and other organizations that are advocating for municipalities on the impact these tariffs will have on our local economies, industries and residents; and

Whereas trade between Ontario and the United States is very important to our residents and local economies and requires all levels of government to work together in the best interest of those residents; and



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Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, across Ontario municipalities are expected to spend between \$250 and \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and

Whereas municipalities have traditionally been prevented by trade agreements from giving preference to Buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities can assist in the Team Canada effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces.

Therefore, be it resolved that, Ontario's Big City Mayors offer our support and assistance to the provincial and federal governments to strike a trade deal with the United States that will see a win for all involved when it comes to strengthening our economy and keeping Ontario jobs safe;

And that we support the provincial and federal governments on the measures they have put in place in response to the proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and ask that they take any and all measures to protect the interests of Ontario in any upcoming trade negotiations;

And that there should be a municipal voice advising the Council on Canada-US Relations, and the Council of the Federation on the impacts to municipalities and possible solutions to address these impacts;

And that the federal and provincial governments remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies and services for capital projects and other supplies;

And that the provincial and federal governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to US tariffs and support Canadian businesses.

Be it further resolved that copies of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver
- Josh Morgan, Chair, Big City Mayors' Caucus and Mayor of London
- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport
- Karen Redman, Chair, MARCO and Chair, Regional Municipality of Waterloo