

Media Release – For Immediate Release



The United States and Canada share a longstanding history of cross-border partnerships and business collaboration. With deep regional economic ties, the Buffalo-Niagara Partnership, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, and Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce jointly affirm our commitment to fostering a robust and mutually beneficial economic relationship between the United States and Canada. We are stronger together. The trade partnership between the two countries has made both of us prosperous, and it still has untapped potential to help our economies grow.

The trade relationship between the United States and Canada is the largest in the world, worth \$1.3 trillion per year. 1.4 million American jobs and 2.3 million Canadian jobs depend upon this relationship.

Our binational group of chambers represent 5,065 organizations on both sides of the border employing 430,000 people, and covers both the busiest passenger and cargo land crossings in the country. Most of our members are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), who are particularly vulnerable as they do not have the large cash reserves or lobbying power of big firms. 98% of all Canadian businesses are SMEs, and nearly half of the Canadian labour force works for an SME.

The United States and Canada have built the largest and most successful trade partnership in the world, supporting millions of jobs and driving economic growth on both sides of the border. Businesses depend on predictable, stable trade policies, and unnecessary tariffs only create economic hardship for workers, consumers, and industries. As chambers of commerce representing key cross-border regions, we stand united in calling for continued collaboration, the removal of trade barriers, and a commitment to policies that strengthen our shared prosperity. We are stronger together.

In light of recent discussions surrounding tariffs and trade policies, we are united in our call for continued collaboration and dialogue to reduce barriers to trade and ensure a predictable and stable environment for businesses and workers.

Our group does not favour tariffs between our two countries. At a time of high inflation and when governments on both sides of the border have committed to fighting that inflation, this entirely avoidable economic burden to American and Canadian families must be rejected.

The Canadian-U.S. trade relationship has been mutually beneficial since the founding of both countries. As representatives of businesses on both sides of our shared border, the chamber group is committed to supporting and strengthening our trade relationship.

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Key Priorities for Cross-Border Trade

1. Maintain a fair and prosperous trade relationship without additional tariffs. Under a retaliatory scenario, the average American family will lose \$1,300 USD per year from the proposed tariffs, while Canadian households will lose an average of \$1,900 CAD. U.S. gasoline prices are predicted to jump by 30 cents per gallon the moment that tariffs are applied, for example. Food items such as avocados, chocolate, and coffee are mostly imported with no readily-available substitute sources, and U.S. prices could rise by the full 25 percent amount within a few weeks.
2. Commit to USMCA/CUSMA. The trade agreement has been a success; double-digit trade growth since its inception has made Mexico and Canada the top trading partners of the United States, with trade volumes 44% higher than U.S. goods trade with China. The group supports the U.S. commitment to examine its trade imbalance in a data-driven manner, and recommends the findings be brought forward at the scheduled renegotiation of USMCA in 2026.
3. Develop the Fortress Am-Can proposals by the Government of Ontario, specifically:

- a. increasing the U.S.-Canada steel trade by 25% and halting Chinese dumping in north American markets
 - b. strengthening the agri-food trade to reduce food reliance on countries outside the American-Canadian partnership
 - c. strengthening the integrated automotive sector with the goal of producing an additional one million Am-Can vehicles per year by 2028
 - d. Harmonizing professional certifications between both countries
4. Repeal the Digital Services Tax and allow a freer flow of digital services between American and Canadian firms
 5. Repeal the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act for U.S. purchasers
 6. Accelerate Canada's timeline for a commitment to 2%-of-GDP spending on defense
 7. Commit to greater border security measures including increased staffing at border crossings, greater use of technology such as drones and x-ray scanners, and improved intelligence sharing on known and suspected offenders attempting to cross the border. While Canada's \$1.3B investment in border security is welcome, both countries should cooperate to enhance border security.

Quotes

“Placing a heavy tariff on all imports from our largest trading partner will raise costs and drive inflation on employers and families across the Buffalo Niagara region. Canada has long been our closest trading partner and ally, and its recent \$1.3 billion investment in border security proves that Canada remains committed to our mutually beneficial partnership. Our federal leaders must stick to trade policy that encourages growth and investment, and unlocks the power of our cross-border economy.” *Dottie Gallagher, President & CEO, Buffalo Niagara Partnership*

“President Trump's proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods poses a significant threat to food security and agricultural supply chains in both the United States and Canada. These tariffs could disrupt the flow of agricultural products across the border, potentially leading to higher food prices and reduced availability of certain produce. The impact would be particularly severe for greenhouse growers in southwestern Ontario, where 90% of produce is exported to the U.S. market. The tariffs could also affect the import and export of critical agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and farm machinery from and to the U.S., further complicating the situation for Canadian and U.S. farmers. Agriculture represents \$4 billion in GDP and 3,500 jobs in Chatham-Kent. While challenges are undoubtedly present, Chatham-Kent's economic fundamentals remain strong. Our diverse

economy, skilled workforce, and strategic resources position us well to navigate the new trade landscape." *B.J. Griffiths, Chair, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce*

"As the site of one of Canada's busiest border crossings, a major exporter in manufacturing and agri-food, and as one of the country's premier tourist destinations, much of Niagara's prosperity has been built on the strong partnership we have always enjoyed with our American counterparts. That partnership is based on our recognition that we can do more together than we can do separately. We must build upon it and make both of our countries better and stronger." *Mishka Balsom, CEO, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce*

"Hamilton's economy is deeply interconnected with the United States, and these tariffs threaten the foundation of that relationship. The Hamilton Chamber stands with our partners in calling for smart, cooperative trade policies that foster growth on both sides of the border, and we remain fully committed to advocating for fair trade policies that protect our members and strengthen the Canada-U.S. relationship. This isn't just about businesses—it's about protecting jobs, families, and our economic future." *Greg Dunnett, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce*

"The Windsor-Essex region is foundationally economically and socially interconnected with the United States. Windsor-Detroit is the busiest land crossing, with approximately 8,000 trucks, carrying an estimated \$325 million or 1/3 of all Canada-U.S. trade flowing across the border daily. As the Automotive Capital of Canada, and home to the largest cluster of greenhouses in North America, a significant percentage of Windsor-Essex economy is export dependent. This relationship extends beyond business, as approximately 6,000 nurses, doctors, engineers and other professionals cross the border on a daily basis to care-for and support our American neighbours, friends, and families. The Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce supports this alliance and advocates for continued economic partnerships that mutually enhance the quality of life for citizens and business on both sides of our shared border." *Ryan Donally, President & CEO, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce*

For quotes and interview requests, please contact:

About Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce:

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce serves as the recognized voice of visionary leadership for over 350 members and businesses in the Chatham-Kent community. Their

mission is to champion business excellence by encouraging business relations, integrating business with the community, and fostering entrepreneurship. They aim to enhance economic prosperity and quality of life for local businesses. You can find them at 54 Fourth St, Chatham, ON N7M 2G21. For inquiries, you can reach them at (519) 352-7540 or via email at info@chatham-kentchamber.ca.

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