

February 18, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

At its regular meeting on February 13, 2025, Dufferin County Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Council supports the resolution from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), dated February 10, 2025, to support the federal and provincial negotiations with the United States on trade tariffs.

Thank you,

*Michelle Dunne*

Michelle Dunne  
Clerk

Cc Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Honourable Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
Honourable Vic Fedelli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus  
Dufferin Municipalities

Attachment: EOWC Resolution

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## **Resolution: EOWC Support of Canadian and Ontario Governments' Negotiations with the United States Government on Trade Tariffs**

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**Moved by: Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden of the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville**  
**Seconded by: Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC / Mayor of Prince Edward County**

**Whereas** the Canadian government is currently in negotiations with the United States (U.S.) government on their proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods exported to the U.S.; and

**Whereas** Canada's Prime Minister and Ontario's Premier have outlined several plans to combat the impact that the proposed tariffs would have on Ontario which focus on strengthening trade between Ontario and the U.S. while bringing jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border; and

**Whereas** the Canadian 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; and

**Whereas** trade between Ontario and the U.S. 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

**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** Ontario municipalities have traditionally treated trade partners equally and fairly in all procurements in accordance with our established international trade treaties; and

**Whereas** municipalities play a crucial role as part of the Team Canada approach to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; and

**Whereas** there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces and territories.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus** supports the Canadian and Ontario 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 ensure municipalities are part of the coordinated Team Canada approach;

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

**And that** the Canadian and Ontario governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to U.S. tariffs and support Canadian businesses;

**And that** the Canadian and Ontario governments remove all legislative barriers that impact the ability to buy local, and indemnify municipalities should there be challenges to buying Canadian;

**And that** the Canadian and Ontario governments continue to invest in infrastructure to provide stability, jobs, and support our communities' social and economic prosperity over the long-term.

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

- The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Doug Ford, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party
- Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
- Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party
- Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver
- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport
- Christa Lowry, Chair, Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Jeff Leal, Chair, Eastern Ontario Leadership Council
- John Beddows, Chair, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- All regional Members of Canadian Parliament
- All candidates running as Ontario Members of Parliament
- All of Ontario's municipalities for their support

**Carried**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Clark".

**Chair Bonnie Clark, EOWC**

**February 10, 2025**

