

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: February 5, 2025

**MOVED BY MAYOR A. HORWATH.....**

**Protecting Hamilton’s Economy and Jobs: Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats - REVISED**

WHEREAS, the United States government, under President Donald Trump, had announced the imposition of 25% tariffs on Canadian goods effective February 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, the potential threat of tariffs on Hamilton's key industries poses significant risk to local businesses, workers, and the overall economic stability of our community;

WHEREAS, these tariffs could potentially reduce the city's GDP by up to \$1.1 billion, impacting key sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and the automotive industry;

WHEREAS, Hamilton's manufacturing sector employs over 28,000 workers locally and over 48,000 within the broader Hamilton CMA, and plays a critical role in the city's economic stability;

WHEREAS, the potential decline in Hamilton’s largest export sector—iron and steel—could result in a \$3.6 billion reduction in export value;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has significant purchasing power through its capital projects and infrastructure investments, which can be leveraged to support local and national businesses during this economic uncertainty;

WHEREAS, although a 30-day pause on the implementation of these proposed tariffs has been agreed upon by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the potential threat remains, necessitating the exploration of proactive measures to protect and support Hamilton’s local businesses, workers, and families to ensure economic resilience, growth, and long-term prosperity for our city;

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2025, Council referred Councillor Matt Francis's "Buy Local and Canadian First Procurement Policy" motion to the Procurement Sub-Committee for consideration with the intention to lay the groundwork for prioritizing local procurement;

WHEREAS, the current economic climate and the urgent threat posed by new tariffs necessitate accelerated action to expand on the aforementioned motion and reinforce Hamilton's economic resilience; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities, while traditionally constrained by trade agreements, can play a pivotal role in supporting Canadian businesses through strategic procurement practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) Staff expedite the review of current procurement policies and report back to GIC on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with preliminary recommendations on the feasibility of integrating "Buy Local and Canadian" policies effectively and urgently given the current economic uncertainty;
- (b) The City of Hamilton stands in solidarity with federal and provincial governments to advocate against U.S. tariffs and support a coordinated "Team Canada" response.
- (c) The City of Hamilton calls on the federal and provincial governments to collaborate with municipalities in identifying and removing barriers that prevent local governments from preferring Canadian businesses in procurement processes.
- (d) The City of Hamilton endorses the City of Burlington's "Buy Canada" resolution, dated January 31, 2025, and that the clerk forward this resolution to the following organizations for their information:
  - (i) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
  - (ii) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
  - (iii) Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus
  - (iv) Hamilton Members of Parliament (MPs)
  - (v) Hamilton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)
  - (vi) Municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe