


**Canadian Federal and Ontario Provincial Government Responses & Timeline  
to U.S. Initiated Tariff Related Activities  
(current to April 3, 2025)**

Tariff Countermeasures



**Mar. 4, 2025:**

-  Canada responds to U.S. tariffs by levying 25% tariff on \$30 billion worth of “Phase 1” goods from the U.S. (e.g., orange juice, peanut butter, wine, spirits, beer, coffee, appliances, apparel, footwear, motorcycles, cosmetics, and certain pulp and paper products)
-  Canada launches 21-day public consultation process (until Mar. 25, 2025) on possible introduction of tariffs against \$125 billion worth of “Phase 2” goods (e.g., passenger vehicles and trucks, steel and aluminum products, certain fruits and vegetables, aerospace products, beef, pork, dairy, recreational vehicles, and recreational boats)
  - Update: some Phase 2 goods become subject to import tariffs effective Mar. 13, 2025 (see *below*) and public consultation process extended until Apr. 2, 2025
-  Ontario announces a series of measures in response to U.S. tariffs, including:
  - Banning U.S. companies from bidding on Government of Ontario procurement contracts (Ontario spend approximately \$30 billion on procurement annually)
  - Removing U.S. alcohol from the LCBO
  - Cancelling \$100 million broadband contract with U.S. company, Starlink



**Mar. 10 and 11, 2025**

-  Ontario announces a 25% surcharge on electricity exported to U.S. (Mar. 10, 2025) which is subsequently paused while awaiting outcome of bilateral discussions agreed to by U.S. (Mar. 11, 2025)


**Mar. 13, 2025:**

-   After the U.S. imposed tariffs of 25% on Canadian steel and aluminum products, Canada imposed 25% reciprocal tariffs on a list of steel products worth \$12.6 billion and aluminum products worth \$3 billion, as well as additional imported U.S. goods worth \$14.2 billion, for a total of \$29.8 billion. The list of additional products affected by counter tariffs included tools, computers and servers, display monitors, sport equipment, and cast-iron products

**Mar. 22, 2025**

-   Canada launches public consultation process on possible introduction of tariffs on steel imports (consultation period expected to close Apr. 21, 2025)


**Apr. 3, 2025**

-  Canada announces 25% countermeasure tariffs on U.S. automobiles imported into Canada that are not compliant with CUSMA. Canada confirms it will not commence similar countermeasure tariffs on automobile parts


- Prime Minister Carney states, “every single dollar raised from those counter-tariffs, which could reach around \$8 billion before remission, will go directly to our auto workers and the companies affected by those tariffs”

### Supports for Businesses


#### **Mar. 4, 2025:**

-  Ontario announces a ban on U.S. companies from bidding on Government of Ontario procurement contracts (Ontario spend approximately \$30 billion on procurement annually)


#### **Mar. 7, 2025:**

-  Canada announces enhanced supports for businesses that may be impacted by the tariffs and/or by economic uncertainty/turbulence by:
  - Launching the Trade Impact Program through Export Development Canada. Investment of \$5 billion over two years, starting 2025-2026, to help exporters reach new markets for Canadian products and help companies navigate the economic challenges imposed by the tariffs, including losses from non-payment, currency fluctuations, lack of access to cash flows, and barriers to expansion.
  - Making \$500 million in favourably priced loans available through the Business Development Bank of Canada to support impacted businesses in sectors directly targeted by tariffs, as well as companies in their supply chains. Businesses will also benefit from advisory services in areas such as financial management and market diversification.
  - Providing \$1 billion in new financing through Farm Credit Canada to reduce financial barriers for the Canadian agriculture and food industry. This lending offer will help address cash flow challenges so that businesses can adjust to a new operating environment and continue to supply the high-quality agricultural and food products that Canadians rely on.

#### **Mar. 21, 2025**


-  Canada announces series of supports for workers and businesses impacted by tariffs:
  - Deferral of GST/HST remittances and corporate income tax payments from Apr. 2 to Jun. 30, 2025;
  - Waiving of interest on GST/HST and T2 instalment and arrears payments that are required to be paid between April 2 and June 30, 2025; and,
  - Interest relief on existing GST/HST and T2 balances between Apr. 2 and Jun. 30, 2025.

#### **Mar. 22, 2025**


-  Canada announces changes to the AgriStability program to support the agriculture businesses impacted by tariffs. The proposed supports include increasing the compensation rate from 80% to 90% and doubling the current payment cap to \$6 million for the 2025 program year.

- To get money to producers faster, the Government of Canada has also provided provincial/territorial governments with the option to proactively enter into an agreement to issue interim payments at a higher payment rate and initiate Targeted Advance Payments in the event of tariffs. In provinces and territories that adopt these enhancements, it would mean producers enrolled in AgriStability will be eligible to apply for an interim payment up to 75% of their estimated final payment for the 2025 program year. Additionally, an administrator will be able to establish a Targeted Advance Payment for the 2025 program year, for example, where analysis shows that market disruptions have resulted in a sufficient loss to trigger AgriStability payments for a particular sector or region.

#### **Apr. 7, 2025**


-  Ontario announces the following actions to help keep workers employed and support businesses in navigating the economic turmoil:
  - deference of the following provincially administered taxes for six months (April 1, 2025, to October 1, 2025; aimed at 80,000 businesses and valued at approx. \$9 billion): Employer Health Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, Gasoline Tax, Fuel Tax, Mining Tax, Tobacco Tax, International Fuel Tax Agreement, Beer, Wine & Spirits Tax, the Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans and the Race Tracks Tax; and,
  - issuing of \$2 billion rebate for safe employers through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

#### **Expected:**

-  As part of their reelection platform, the Ford government announced it will:
  - launch a \$5 billion “Protect Ontario Account” initiative: financial support programs that help large-scale industrial job creators address operational challenges, reshore supply chains, restructure and re-tool to find new customers and keep workers employed
  - leverage \$200 billion spent by the province on capital projects to prioritize Ontario steel and other provincial products for infrastructure projects
  - work to remove inter-provincial trade barriers
  - allocate \$50 million toward a new Ontario Together Trade Fund to support businesses that make near-term investments to service more interprovincial customers, develop new markets and re-shore critical supply chains
  - provide a six-month deferral of provincial business taxes


#### Supports for Municipal Governments

#### **Expected:**


-  As part of their reelection platform, the Ford government announced it will invest \$40 million in the Trade-Impacted Communities Program to support municipalities facing major economic disruption because of new tariffs. Projects funded through the program could address supply chain diversification, community economic development planning or market development activities

## Supports for Workers


### **Mar. 7, 2025:**

-  Canada announces temporary flexibilities to the Employment Insurance (EI) Work-Sharing Program to increase access and maximum agreement duration. The Work-Sharing Program provides EI benefits to employees who agree with their employer to work reduced hours due to a decrease in business activity beyond their employer's control. This helps employers retain experienced workers and avoid layoffs and helps workers maintain their employment and skills while supplementing the reduced wages with EI benefits.



### **Mar. 22, 2025:**

-  Canada announces its intention to introduce additional temporary measures to the Employment Insurance (EI) program:
  - Artificially boosting the regional unemployment rates used to determine access to and duration of EI benefits. The rate will be boosted by one percentage point in all EI regions, with no region seeing an unemployment rate of less than 7.1%. This temporary measure will reduce the hours required to qualify for regular benefits to no higher than 630 hours and increase the weeks of entitlement by up to four additional weeks. This measure will be in effect for three months.
  - Allowing claimants to receive EI benefits sooner by suspending the rules around treatment of severance, vacation, and other monies upon separation so that they do not need to be used up before receiving EI benefits. This measure will be in effect for six months.
  - Waiving the waiting period so that workers receive benefits for the first week of unemployment. All claimant types (regular, special, fishing) are eligible for this measure. This measure will be in effect for six months.

### **Expected:**

-  As part of their reelection platform, the Ford government announced it will invest more in skills development and training programs

## Other Actions

-  President Trump has claimed that tariffs on Canada and Mexico are required to combat the extraordinary threat to U.S. national security, including public health posed by “unchecked drug trafficking”. In addition to countering the validity of this claim (less than 1% of the fentanyl and illegal crossings into the U.S. come from Canada), on February 3, 2025, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a Fentanyl Czar position to work with all levels of government, as well as with U.S. counterparts, to support Canada’s work in stopping the production and trafficking of illegal fentanyl.
-  Premier Ford has launched an aggressive media campaign with U.S. media outlets to reach Americans directly and explain that tariffs hurt both countries.