

**The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
February 18, 2025**

Motion

Response to 25% Tariff Threat from United States

Moved by: Regional Councillor Crawford
Seconded by: Councillor Tyler Morin

WHEREAS the Town of Ajax has more than 75 businesses that export primarily to the United States, representing over 4000 employees locally;

AND WHEREAS United States President Donald Trump has committed to imposing a blanket 25% tariff on Canadian goods, which pose a serious threat to the entire Canadian economy;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax's combined 2025 Capital and Operating Budget represents a purchasing power of over \$50 million;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Ontario are subject to obligations under international trade agreements, and federal legislation, such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the Competition Act, which mandate certain procurement practices and ensure non-discriminatory access to procurement opportunities by foreign businesses in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Business Supports & Engagement team has taken steps, including a resource hub on the Town's website and direct outreach to businesses, to ensure the Town is a vocal supporter of Team Canada by working closely with Invest Durham, Invest Ontario, and Invest in Canada to provide timely information and localized support for Ajax businesses in response to tariff threats and a potential trade war;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Ajax Council fully endorse the actions and sentiments of Team Canada to protect Canadian consumers, support Canadian businesses, and mitigate the impact of a potential trade war; and
2. The Manager of Procurement be directed to investigate how the Town can prefer non-American companies when purchasing goods and services, particularly when valued less than \$100,000 and, if deemed possible, present Council with a revised Procurement By-law for approval at the March 24, 2025, Meeting of Council; and

3. That the Town send a letter to the Minister of International Trade Diversification requesting amendments to the federal Competition Act to remove any barrier for municipalities preferring Canadian companies; and
4. That a copy of this motion be sent to:
 - a. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
 - b. Premier Doug Ford
 - c. Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
 - d. Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade Diversification
 - e. Hon. Vic Fedeli, Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
 - f. Hon. Mark Holland, MP for Ajax
 - g. Patrice Barnes, MPP for Ajax
 - h. Durham Regional Chair John Henry
 - i. Alli Leetham, Executive Director of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade