



Correspondence Items Presented for Information March 24, 2025

- 1) Correspondence from the Chief Executive, Arbor Day Foundation and Urban Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Re: Tree Cities of the World recognition.
- 2) Correspondence from the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Re: Annual report.
- 3) Correspondence from David Wonnacott Re: Request to reconsider displaying American flags.
- 4) Correspondence from the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) Re:
 - a) Policy Update – Communities brace for tariff impact.
 - b) Policy Update – Continued AMO action on trade and tariffs.
- 5) Correspondence from the following municipalities Re: Tariff impact.
 - a) Township of Selwyn
 - b) Town of LaSalle
- 6) Correspondence from the Clerk, Municipality of East Ferris Re: Standing for Canada.
- 7) Correspondence from the Clerk, Township of Champlain Re: Canada metal processing group – announcement on steps to respond to U.S. tariff threats on the steel sector.
- 8) Correspondence from the Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Re: Request for landlord tenant reforms.
- 9) Correspondence from the City Clerk, City of Sarnia Re: Carbon tax.
- 10) Correspondence from the Town Clerk, Township of Amaranth Re: Buy local, buy Canadian.

Find out what this recognition means for your city.

[View online](#)

LEARN MORE

Mayor of Owen Sound,

Thank you for your leadership in making Owen Sound a Tree City of the World. Through this programme, the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations officially recognises Owen Sound as part of a world-class network of cities committed to growing a thriving urban canopy that creates a healthier environment for all neighbours.

Owen Sound joins an impressive list of 210 cities from 24 countries, earning Tree Cities of the World recognition, including 41 first- time cities.

This programme provides cities with assistance, direction, and a framework for growing and maintaining a robust urban forestry programme, the benefits of which are substantial. A healthy urban canopy can result in:

- Reduced costs for energy, stormwater management, and erosion control, boosting overall climate resilience
- Higher property values and stronger community ties
- Improved city pride
- Lower rates of asthma, especially in childhood
- Relief from daytime summer temperatures
- Improved air quality
- Reduced noise pollution

Tree Cities of the World exemplify what it means to steward the planet while creating healthier, more liveable cities for all. We hope you are as proud to receive this recognition as we are to share it with you.



Dan Lambe
Chief Executive
Arbor Day Foundation



Simone Borelli

Urban Forestry Officer
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)



Don't want to receive emails like this?

[Unsubscribe here.](#)



6 March 2025

To: Mayor and Council

We are sharing with you our Annual Report for 2024 to highlight the work of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force works in partnership with 90+ community-based agencies, planning tables, community groups, universities, institutes, and policy-makers. The Poverty Task Force is led by the United Way of Bruce Grey along with leadership from Bruce and Grey Counties.

We have created a platform that allows for meaningful dialogue, education, and purposeful partnerships that address the root causes of poverty in Grey and Bruce Counties. Our objective is to spark and inform public debate and to engage the social, academic, and policy communities around important issues of poverty reduction in rural communities.

The Poverty Task Force works in partnership to address poverty-related issues facing Grey Bruce – housing, income security, employment security, health equity, community voices, and transportation. We promote high-level discussion among Grey Bruce municipal and provincial governments, carry out local participatory research with universities, the Four County Labour Market Planning Board, and other research partners, and take action with social service agencies and community leaders. We are an action table of the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.

The Poverty Task Force is funded by Grey County, Bruce County, and the United Way of Bruce Grey. The United Way of Bruce Grey is the administrative lead and employs a Coordinator. The Poverty Task Force currently meets monthly virtually.

We have significantly benefited from the participation of councillors at the lower-tier municipalities to engage in poverty-reduction strategies. We are asking that you formally adopt the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force as a committee that a member of your council attends. We believe that this formal representation will improve communication and engagement between our respective organizations. Your municipality's participation would be invaluable in strengthening our collective efforts to address poverty in our communities.

We invite you to join us in this important work and look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Jill Umbach
Planning Network Coordinator
Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force/United Way of Bruce Grey
povertytaskforce@unitedwaybg.com, 519-377-9406

Francesca Dobbyn
Executive Director
United Way of Bruce Grey

2024

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Annual Report



**BRUCE GREY
POVERTY
TASK FORCE**
Our Voice is Power

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This report was prepared by Jill Umbach, Coordinator, Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force on the work of the Poverty Task Force in 2024.

The report reflects the advocacy, public awareness, cross-sector collaboration, knowledge sharing and interagency coordination of 92+ social service organizations to meet our communities' basic needs and to address systemic poverty.

The Poverty Task Force is grateful for the continued support of the Grey County, Bruce County and the United Way of Bruce Grey in the work that we do and for the leadership and ongoing partnership to address poverty in Bruce and Grey Counties.

Poverty is a systemic issue that impacts every aspect of society and cannot be solved without collective action.

Advocacy, Bridging and Collaboration are the basic ABCs that guide the work of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. Bringing together 92+ non-profit, government, health and research organizations over the past 12 years has proven that **our voices do have power**.

Our collaborations have been data driven with our local experiences featured at Poverty Task Force monthly meetings and shared with 23 local, provincial and national planning tables, most notably in 2024 with Grey Bruce Community Safety & Well-Being Plan, RentSafe Ontario and the Tamarack Institute.

In 2024, we expanded our data collection and analysis of the Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Featuring the work of the Bruce County Public Library and The Meeting Place Tobermory in our report *Reducing Poverty Through Volunteers: the impact of CVITP in Grey Bruce*, the 2 organizations combined brought \$2 million dollars back into Bruce County households.

We are in a housing crisis with chronic homelessness and social housing waitlists increasing for both Counties. Our Housing Community of Practice has created a safe space for housing outreach workers to support each other, raising complex cases and engaging with housing services to find solutions. In 2024, the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative released our *Owen Sound Landlord-Tenant Survey* resulting in a motion to form a City of Owen Sound Rental Housing Task Force.

Food insecurity has worsened in Bruce Grey, with household rates rising to 18.3% in 2023. 30.7% of children are living in food insecure households. Food insecurity is a symptom of broader economic issues like inadequate income, unaffordable housing and rising living costs. In 2024, we launched a public awareness campaign *"Income Solutions to Food Insecurity"* to educate policy makers and the public on the unsustainable load carried by charities to feed people without seeing a change in food security and to advocate for income solutions such as increased social assistance rates.

INTRODUCTION

PTF 2024 GOALS

The Poverty Task Force Goals for 2024 were based on the collaborative work identified by our Action Groups.

Goal: build resiliency, hold space and promote collaboration with partners.

- Create safe spaces for meaningful exchange to build resiliency, hold space and build collaboration for solutions.
- Contribute to collective action for GB CVITP Network FILE Project, RentSafe Tenant-LandlordSurvey engagement, Living Wage campaign, GB Good Food Box and Financial Inclusion Study.

Goal: increase the number of government partners leading on poverty reduction.

- Contribute to social plans that integrate poverty as a central theme such as the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Vital Signs Report 2024, etc.
- Ensure formal representation/annual funding from Bruce County and Grey County.
- Formal representation of lower-tier municipalities – assigned representatives and PTF minutes are submitted to Council packages.

Goal: develop a sustainable funding strategy for all elements of the Poverty Task Force

- Develop strategy for PTF collective work to be funded.
- Develop new model and funding strategy for Community Voices.

Goal: increase public education and awareness on homelessness, harm reduction approaches, food security, hunger, etc. to reduce stigma

- Participate in public messaging, education, awareness and forums as content expert.
- Create “income solutions addressing food insecurity” awareness campaign around the release of the Nutritious Food Basket.

Goal: increase engagement of people with lived/living experience

- Ensure diversity, equity and inclusion is a central strategy to the work we do.
- Support the Giiwe Sharing Circle model and identify opportunities to improve Indigenous relationships.
- Partner with programs such as “Making Your Way” to develop a new Community Voices group.

Housing Security

The deepening homelessness and opioid crisis has been on every agenda and will continue to be so as rates of poverty and homelessness increase. In 2024, affordable and supportive housing has been advocated for in every statement coming from the Poverty Task Force at national, provincial and local policy advocacy opportunities such as the Ontario budget consultations with the Ministry of Finance.

Members of the Housing Community of Practice (CoP) may think that they are constantly “holding the line” or “trying to keep people from dying”, but their work has not gone unnoticed. The Poverty Task Force recognizes all partners who are on the frontlines saving lives, feeding the hungry and keeping people housed. The Housing CoP met weekly throughout the year (50 weeks) to address immediate housing needs of individuals. ODSP case workers as well as financial advisors have broadened the table and the engagement with housing directors deepens partnerships and cross-sector collaboration to tackle issues holistically.

Giiwe Sharing Circles led by M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Program's Housing program was supported by the Poverty Task Force for 6 years. In March 2024, the last Giiwe Circle was hosted by the Friendship Centre. Funding will be directed to emergency housing. Recognizing that the impact of colonization and generational trauma has lowered the levels of trust of Indigenous people to engage with “the system”, Indigenous housing workers at the Housing CoP continue to advocate the need for more equitable access to programs and services.

RENTSAFE OWEN SOUND COLLABORATIVE

A Report on Landlord & Tenant Survey Findings
in the City of Owen Sound

November 2024



What is the reality of rental housing in the Owen Sound Community?



The RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative is a group of organizations and community partners working together towards the goal of safe and healthy homes for all

Connecting people across sectors towards healthy housing for all
RentSafe is a collaborative initiative led by the Coalition Partnering for
Owen Sound and District (CPOSD)

In 2024, we released the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative's *Landlord-Tenant Survey* findings at the Healthy Communities Partnership table, the Poverty Task Force table, the Corporate Services Committee and to the Strategic Planning Committee of the City of Owen Sound.

36 landlords responsible for 800 rental units (estimated to be 40% of the rental market) and 545 Owen Sound tenants responded. A good representation of Indigenous and Newcomers provided their lived experience. The City of Owen Sound received the report and a motion was passed to form a Rental Housing Task Force.

We welcome you to read the findings and recommendations in the full report. <https://povertytaskforce.com/publications/>

Food Security




Food insecurity is more than hunger. Households who struggle to pay for food also struggle to pay for the other costs of living, like housing, utilities, medications and transportation. Presenting food charity as a solution to food insecurity is misinformation that reduces support for real solutions. Food charity cannot be expected to fix an income problem.

We launched our “Income Solutions to Food Insecurity” awareness campaign with the release of the *Monitoring Food Affordability in Grey Bruce* by the Grey Bruce Public Health. This report formed the basis for a series of social media blog posts, media interviews and invitations to speak to community groups across Bruce and Grey Counties, including in Kincardine and Port Elgin, as well as at various planning tables such as the GB Community Safety & Well-Being Plan.



We welcome you to read the full report and go to our website to find the full series of social media posts at: <https://povertytaskforce.com/food-security/income-solutions-to-food-insecurity/>

Let's Talk about strategies that can counter food insecurity like:

-  High quality jobs with benefits
-  Tax credits for lower income households and automatic tax filing
-  Minimum wage and social supports that reflect the true cost of living

Leaders are focusing on income solutions not food provision.

www.povertytaskforce.com

The Food Security Action Group meets monthly to bring together community food programs to exchange knowledge, technical expertise and share resources. For example, the Poverty Task Force made connections and supported collaboration with The Bridge on Main Street/Kincardine Food Bank and the Grey Bruce Food Share program resulting in the formation of a new food rescue program in Kincardine.

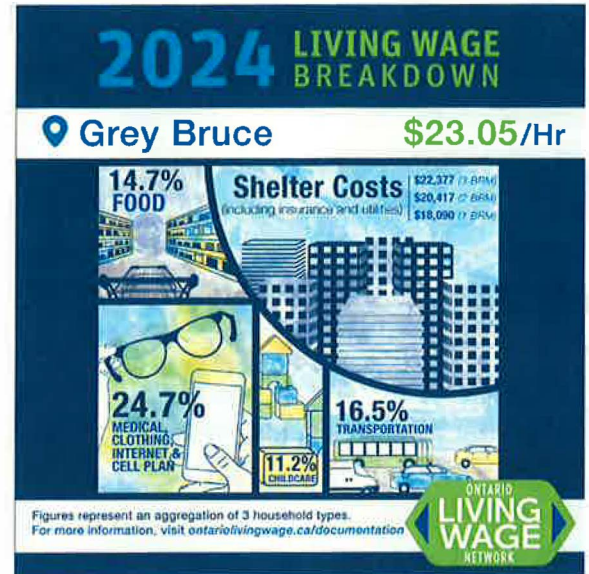
The Poverty Task Force supports the collection of data posted on the Food Bruce Grey Dashboard to monitor food hunger response in Grey Bruce. Data is collected from community meal programs, food banks, Grey Bruce Community Garden Network (produce donated to meal programs/food banks), food rescue including the Grey Bruce Food Share and the Grey Bruce Good Food Box. This Dashboard is available to the public and is used by community food programs and municipal councilors to create reports specific to their area of service to generate policy discussions.

<https://www.foodbrucegrey.com>

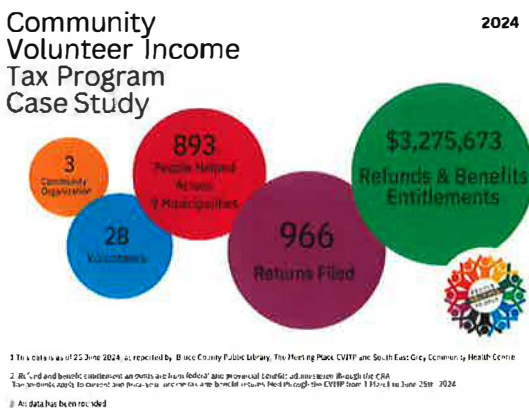
Income Security

In addition to the “Income Solutions to Food Insecurity” awareness campaign the Poverty Task Force in partnership with the United Way of Bruce Grey and the Ontario Living Wage Network calculated and released the 2024 Grey Bruce Living Wage. At \$23.05/hr it is the second highlight rate in Ontario and reflects a 1.3% increase from the 2023 rate of \$22.75.

In 2024, our Income & Employment Security Action Group partners, including the Four County Labour Planning Market Board, engaged with employers on the value of retaining employees by paying a living wage and educating job seekers. <https://povertytaskforce.com/living-wage/>



The living wage is based on the actual costs of living in Grey Bruce, including housing, food, childcare and transportation. The media release highlighted challenges with a lack of overall childcare spaces, the goal of \$10/day getting close to \$22/day for all and long waitlists (1,254 children in Bruce County and 2,129 in Grey County (December 2023)). The waitlist is impacted by a shortage of Early Childhood Educators, many of whom are not being paid a living wage and an increase in local child care demands.



In 2024, the Poverty Task Force and Bruce County Public Library hosted the Annual Gathering of the Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) Network in Walkerton. The results of the case studies and the gathering with CVITP organizations, representatives from MP Alex Ruff's office and the CRA were released in the report *Reducing Poverty Through Volunteers: the impact of CVITP in Grey Bruce*. Evidence proving CVITP's role as an essential poverty reduction strategy.

Two CVITP organizations in Bruce County combined brought \$2 million dollars back into Bruce County households. The Poverty Task Force supported the recruitment of 14 volunteers, however, due to delays in CRA registration many were too late to participate in the 2023 Tax Season and have been contact again for 2024 Tax Season in 2025. Read how we are building collaboration for income solutions and recommendations in the full report here: <https://povertytaskforce.com/income-security/doing-more-to-increase-income-or-why-you-should-file-your-income-tax/>

Health Equity & Community Voices

The Poverty Task Force support initiatives to collect and generate local Grey Bruce data to inform our collective work. The voices of people with lived experience and their stories are critical to the work of the Poverty Task Force. Collecting data helps us tell our stories better.

The Poverty Task Force Coordinator is the co-chair of BGDISC (Bruce Grey Data and Information Sharing Collaborative) - our Bruce Grey open data portal. The Collaborative mobilizes community decision-makers, including the Corporation of Bruce County, to share vital local rural data to better inform regional programming, policies, funding and social services to support prosperity, sustainability and the well-being of the community. In 2024, we engaged with the Rural Ontario Institute and the Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Plan on ways to access more local data and create interactive dashboards. <https://www.bgdisc.ca/>

The Poverty Task Force Coordinator sits on the Vital Signs Advisory Committee and the Data Working Group. The Community Foundation Grey Bruce's Vital Signs Reports focus on the status of Bruce Grey against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, we identified priority sectors such as poverty, and began to collect local data and stories for the report. The data sets shall be uploaded to BGDISC. The Vital Signs Report 2024 has moved to a release date in 2025.

The Community Voices group did not meet in 2024. However, former members participated in Poverty Task Force meetings, the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative Landlord-Tenant Survey and Tamarack Institute's Financial Inclusion Project. The Project is a partnership with Toronto-Dominion (TD) Bank and a multi-sector Working Group to identify solutions to increase the financial inclusion of the "working poor". This work highlights unique levers for-profit businesses have for reducing poverty. <https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/multimedia/webinar-businesses-reducing-poverty>

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force successfully obtained funding from the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (OHT) to fund a part-time peer support facilitator and the formation of a new group of Community Voices members to attend regular group meetings and engage with the Poverty Task Force in 2025.

Health equity issues are a priority for the Poverty Task Force. During the pandemic our Health Equity Action Group members were focused on COVID response. In 2025, we shall be refreshing the group in partnership with the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team and its partners. The Grey Bruce Public Health and Poverty Task Force Coordinator will take leadership roles as co-chairs with admin support from the GB OHT, reporting to the GB OHT and the Poverty Task Force.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN 2024

The Poverty Task Force (PTF) maintains a list of 92+ member organizations with a contact list of 330 people. Representatives from 23 planning tables/working groups either participated in various PTF action groups, communities of practice and/or Poverty Task Force meetings or the PTF Coordinator participated in their meetings and/or strategic planning exercises. In 2024, the PTF participated in 5 meetings of the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan as an Action Table.

We provided 1 Bridges Out of Poverty workshop with 20 organizations in Saugeen Shores (Southampton) and moderated 3 Anti-Human Trafficking public information sessions (Kincardine, Port Elgin and Owen Sound.)

Our minutes are circulated to members and key elements included in our Community Updates. Our minutes are included in the City of Owen Sound's Consent Agenda.

In 2024, we released 12 community updates and press releases. We have 1,400 Facebook followers, 1,266 website subscribers and 670 Twitter followers. We were in the news speaking on income tax filing, CVITP volunteer recruitment, income solutions to food security, living wage and poverty strategies for rural communities.

PTF FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

In 2024, funding went towards:

- Wages & Benefits of a full-time Planning Network Coordinator
- PTF admin costs
- PTF website design & maintenance/CVITP URL purchases
- Tamarack membership
- Grey Bruce CVITP Network and RentSafe OS Collaborative research

Bruce County (\$20,000). Grey County (\$20,000) and the United Way of Bruce Grey (\$50,249.60) provided the remaining core operational funding for an annual operating budget of \$93,998.83. Note: this total now includes contributions by employer.

In addition, Community Foundation Grey Bruce funded the GB CVITP FILE Project (\$3,000) study. The CRA/CVITP program reimbursed costs previously paid for by the Poverty Task Force for the Owen Sound CVITP organization (\$644.86).

THE NUMBERS

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Contact: povertytaskforce@unitedwaybg.com

Facebook: [BruceGreyPovertyTaskForce](#)

Website: <http://povertytaskforce.com>

Twitter: [@BGTaskForce](#)

COLLECTIVE IMPACT FRAMEWORK



**BRUCE GREY
POVERTY
TASK FORCE**
Our Voice is Power

Our collective impact efforts seek to inform policies and support upstream interventions to address poverty-related community issues. Together we have a common agenda, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication and backbone infrastructure.

January 2025

Collective Action

The Poverty Task Force is made up of 90+ organizations that work across priority sectors to reinforce activities that contribute to reducing poverty.

Evidence-informed/best practices

We draw upon local and national best practices; examine and test them in Grey Bruce context.

Data Driven

We collect local data on social determinants of health, including housing/homelessness, food insecurity, employment and income.

HOUSING SECURITY

Engage with City of Owen Sound on recommendations from Rentsafe Tenant-Landlord Survey and formation of Rental Housing Task Force.

Create safe spaces for meaningful exchange to build resiliency, hold space and build collaboration for solutions.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Develop election education awareness material and advocacy oriented website.

Start up new Community Voices group and ensure they are actively engaged with PTF and GB Ontario Health Team.

Increase municipality leadership engagement as Action Table of the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Grey Bruce.

FOOD SECURITY

Promote income solutions to food insecurity awareness campaign as part of federal and provincial election education.

Contribute to the governance, sustainability and promotion of the Grey Bruce Good Food Box.

INCOME SECURITY

Support volunteer recruitment and promotion of the Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program in partnership with CVITP Network partners.

Contribute to Grey Bruce Living Wage calculation and employer certification to reduce precarious employment.

DATA

Contribute to participatory data collection and analysis on poverty-related issues such as living wage, CVITP dollar value, housing, precarious work, etc.

Contribute poverty related data to Grey Bruce open-data portal BGDISC and Vital Signs 2025.

HEALTH EQUITY

Start up new Health Equity Action Group in partnership with GB Ontario Health Team.

Contribute to addressing health equity issues from a poverty lens with GB Ontario Health Team partners.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION CALL TO ACTIONS

We shall build better relations . The following OFIFC principles will guide our work:

- **Build trust and relations through Indigenous partner engagement**
- **Respect Indigenous culture and spiritualities as a foundation for Indigenous identity.**
- **Understand and respect Indigenous leadership; respond to Indigenous-led community priorities**
- **Collaborate and co-develop programs with Indigenous communities**
- **Respect Indigenous Diversity - no pan-Indigenous programming**
- **Ensure equity for all Indigenous people including women, Two Spirit, Indlgi-queer and LGBTQIA+**

Dear Members of Owen Sound City Council,

I was surprised this morning to see the American flag hanging next to our national flag over both sheets of ice at the Julie McArthur Rec Centre. I am asking city council to reconsider displaying the American flag on municipal properties. In happier times, this made sense as a gesture of cross-border friendship. But times change. The goodwill it celebrated is gone, and it is no longer appropriate. The American flag now represents a hostile country whose head of state aims to coercively subjugate us. Ongoing displays of the American flag on properties which belong to the public of our city are an affront to our civic institutions, to our veterans who fought to advance our democratic norms and independence, and to every family in this town which stands to lose a job and/or real income from Mr. Trump's unjustified trade war (of which there are sadly no small number). It is offensive and no longer belongs next to the Maple Leaf. Please remove it.

Sincerely,

David Wonnacott



AMO Policy Update – Communities Brace for Tariff Impact

US President Trump Makes Good on Tariff Threats

US tariffs became a reality as of 12:01 a.m. today, initiating a trade war between our countries.

The US imposed a 25 per cent levy on Canadian and Mexican goods, with a lower 10 per cent levy on energy and critical minerals. The Canadian government has responded with counter-tariffs on \$30 billion of US goods, which will rise to \$155 billion in 21 days. Ontario is advancing and considering its own retaliatory measures, including some that could significantly impact municipalities. These may include:

- Banning US companies from procurement contracts. It is unclear if any procurement restrictions would apply to municipalities
- Halting export of nickel and critical minerals, impacting local industry
- Implementing a 25 per cent tax on electricity exports when the legislature returns and potentially cutting off the flow entirely. Ontario's consumers and municipalities could see increased rates resulting from the revenue loss
- Cancelling its Starlink contract, which was going to provide high-speed internet access to rural and northern Ontarians starting this June.

These new tariff rates and additional US “reciprocal tariffs” said to be implemented in April could have substantial impacts on Ontario, especially in the most [trade-exposed communities](#) that produce automobiles and parts, steel, copper and other items.

AMO's Action

AMO continues to highlight to federal and provincial governments' Ontario municipalities' desire to take action. Yesterday, AMO President Robin Jones [wrote to the Premier](#) to highlight municipal procurement, economic development functions, and infrastructure investment as key tools to deploy in support of communities and the economy at this critical time.

To ensure municipalities receive the most relevant news on tariff and trade actions, AMO has launched a [new web page](#) to centralize our resources. Here, members can find:

- Tariff impacts on planned municipal infrastructure expenditures. With input from municipal staff across the province, Oxford Economics [estimates](#) that tariffs could increase infrastructure costs over \$1 billion on nearly \$50 billion in planned expenditures over the next two years. Municipalities can use the 2.1% municipal capital cost increase to help inform decisions on upcoming contracts.
- Updates on any “Buy Canadian” initiatives so that municipalities can comply with standing trade agreements while supporting their local, Ontario and Canadian economies. To date, AMO has not received a response to its February [letter to the Ontario Secretary of Cabinet](#) with respect to the importance of collaborating with municipalities around procurement policies and strategies.
- Upcoming tools to estimate the impacts of trade and tariff measures on municipal expenditures and revenues including property taxes to ensure municipalities understand the changing fiscal environment.

AMO will continue to work with our partners in the business community as well as residential and civil construction industries to make the case for investing in municipal services such as social housing and local infrastructure as a stimulus measure. Infrastructure investments pay dividends in both the short and long term, as employing workers contributes to GDP growth and productivity.

Continued AMO Action on Trade and Tariffs

Policy Update • March 13, 2025

Investments in Community Housing as a Response to Tariffs

The US tariffs introduced last week, and the uncertainty caused by them have already begun disrupting Ontario's economy. While we all remain hopeful for a resolution that avoids a negative impact on our communities, residents and industries, we must consider how to best to weather a potentially extended economic downturn.

Last week, [AMO wrote to the Premier](#) highlighting how investments in municipal infrastructure could protect vital construction jobs while driving future productivity. Today, AMO wrote a [follow-up letter](#) to share a [new report](#) that builds the business case for investments in community housing as a response to tariffs.

Investments in community housing have been an important element to past responses to economic downturns. These investments can both provide a secure pipeline of projects for the residential construction sector and contribute to Ontario's long-term productivity.

AMO is calling for an immediate new investment of \$1.5 billion over 2025/26 and 2026/27 for new capital development, capital repairs to existing stock, and acquisition and rehabilitation of existing buildings to protect Ontario. These investments would protect jobs in the residential construction sector while supporting increased productivity and economic growth. This would help Ontario's residents, communities, and industry leave this time of uncertainty even stronger and more economically resilient.

In addition to this report, AMO is developing other resources to help municipalities chart an informed path through these uncertain times. We have released a number of data requests in the past weeks to support these efforts and would like to thank every municipality for their contributions to this united effort.

Contact:

AMO Policy

policy@amo.on.ca

T 416.971.9856

Share this article:

Related Content



TARIFFS AND TRADE

**Communities Brace for
Tariff Impact**

MAR 4, 2025 • POLICY UPDATE



**MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE
HOMELESSNESS
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**AMO 2025 Provincial
Election Tracking**

FEBRUARY 25, 2025



**PROPERTY TAXATION
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**Action on Tariffs and
Trade**

FEB 11, 2025 • POLICY UPDATE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Statement on Trade and Update on Provincial Election Advocacy

FEB 3, 2025 • POLICY UPDATE

March 4, 2025

email: KStevenson@ptbocounty.ca

Keri Stevenson
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
The County of Peterborough
470 Water Street
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3M3

Re: Support Resolution – U.S. Tariffs on Canada/Purchasing Policies

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

Please be advised that at its meeting held the 25th day of February 2025 the Council of the Township of Selwyn passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 2025 – 033 – Support Resolution – U.S. Tariffs on Canada/Purchasing Policies

Councillor John Boyko – Councillor Brian Henry –

That the Township of Selwyn supports the County of Peterborough's Resolution No. 19-2025 which urges the federal and provincial governments to take all necessary actions to protect Ontario's interests in trade negotiations with the U.S. and investigate purchasing policies; and that this motion be copied to those included in the County's motion.

Carried.

I trust you find this in order. Please do not hesitate to contact the Selwyn Township Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Megin Hunter
Office Assistant / Reception

Encl.

cc: The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver

Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport

Bonnie Clark, Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Jeff Leal, Chair, Eastern Ontario Leadership Council

John Beddows, Chair, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

All provincial and territorial Premiers

All local MPs and MPPs

All Ontario Municipalities for their support



March 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Via Email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: Tariffs on Canadian Production

Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 25, 2025
passed the following resolution:

40/25

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Akpata

Seconded by: Councillor Riccio-Spagnuolo

Whereas the recent threats of an imposition on tariffs on Canadian production will have a substantial effect on the items produced in the County of Essex and purchased in the Town of LaSalle;

And Whereas there has only been a 30-day reprieve granted;

And Whereas, a tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum has been threatened;

And Whereas, these tariffs were going to be applied by another country and therefore can be deemed as being external to the Province and Country;

And Whereas, the interprovincial trade has been deemed by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) to represent 18% of Canada's GDP.

And Whereas, the CFIP released a report that said removing interprovincial barriers could boost the economy by up to \$200 billion annually;

And Whereas, items produced, grown, and manufactured in Essex County are sent across Canada;

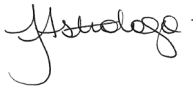
And Whereas, persons in the Town of LaSalle purchase goods manufactured in many provinces and from across the country, and these goods are in many cases subject to interprovincial barriers.

Be It Resolved that, the Town of LaSalle calls upon both the Provincial and Federal Governments to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers to ensure that items produced in the County of Essex and that Canadian items purchased in the Town of LaSalle are no longer subject to these interprovincial trade barriers.

Carried.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo
Director of Council Services/Clerk
Town of LaSalle
jastrologo@lasalle.ca

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD

March 11th, 2025**2025-76****Moved by** Councillor Trahan**Seconded by** Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS Canada and the United States have a shared history of friendship, respect and neighbourly relations;

AND WHEREAS Canada is a sovereign nation with a peaceful history of self-governance dating to its Confederation in 1867;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian identity is marked by a deep-rooted pride in its heritage and culture founded by French and British settlement, enriched by Indigenous culture and traditions and by more than a century and a half of multi-cultural immigration;

AND WHEREAS Canada has significant global standing, consistently supporting its allies, including the United States, in global conflicts such as two world wars, and wars in Korea and Afghanistan; and in international coalitions and in being consistently recognized as among the top countries in the world for quality of life;

AND WHEREAS newly elected President Donald Trump has suggested that with the use of economic force such as tariffs, Canada should become the 51st state of the United States;

AND WHEREAS President Trump, has now imposed tariffs on imports from Canada that will have a significant detrimental impact on the economic stability in both countries;

AND WHEREAS federal and provincial leaders are encouraging Canadians to buy Canadian, at the same time as it seeks to remove inter-provincial trade barriers within Canada;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs and can assist in the effort to combat tariffs and support Canadian businesses by their procurement of Canadian products and services;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have traditionally been prevented by trade agreements and legislation from giving preference to the purchase of Canadian products and services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of East Ferris categorically rejects any efforts by President Trump or any others to undermine the sovereignty of Canada, and we stand united with our provincial and federal leaders for a Canada that remains strong, free, independent, and characterized by peace, order, and good government;

T: 705-752-2740**E: municipality@eastferris.ca****25 Taillefer Road, Corbeil, ON. P0H 1K0****eastferris.ca**

AND FURTHERMORE that Council endorses the federal and provincial call to action to buy Canadian and therefore remove any impediments to municipalities preferring to engage Canadian companies for products and services when appropriate and feasible;

AND FURTHERMORE that Council encourages the provincial and federal governments to remove trade barriers between provinces in support of Canadian businesses;

AND FURTHERMORE that the CAO be directed to prepare a report detailing a temporary purchasing policy that integrates and addresses these concerns;

AND FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Anthony Rota, Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Ontario Good Roads Association, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Mayor Rochefort

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of
Resolution No. 2025-76 passed by the
Council of the Municipality of East Ferris
on the 11th day of March, 2025.



Kari Hanselman, Dipl. M.A.
Clerk

Township of Champlain

Resolution
Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 15.3.
Resolution Number 2025-071
Title: Canada Metal Processing Group - Announcement on steps to respond to U.S. tariff threats on the steel sector
Date: February 27, 2025

Moved By: Paul Emile Duval
Seconded By: Michel Lalonde

Whereas maintaining a healthy domestic steel manufacturing industry and its customer base, who transform steel into steel products, is critical to the economic stability of an independent and autonomous sovereign nation; and

Whereas Steel is a foundational industry to produce core products and infrastructure for essential industries e.g., defence, energy supply both fossil fuels and green energy, majority of industrial manufacturing e.g., automotive, transport, heavy equipment and essential for housing and infrastructure construction; and

Whereas the Heico Companies' Canada Metal Processing Group ("MPG Canada") operates three businesses (Ivaco Rolling Mills, Sivaco, and Infasco) over 6 manufacturing sites in Quebec and Ontario and employs approximately 1600 individuals. The organization operates a state-of-the-art electric arc furnace (EAF) steel plant and billet caster, a two-strand rod mill, a rod processing facility, two wire mills, a bolt manufacturing facility, a nut manufacturing facility and a steel fastener coating facility. MPG Canada strives to offer the best customer experience by delivering high-value and sustainably engineered steel products across North America; and

Whereas, in the face of U.S. tariff threats, and as the Canadian Steel Producer Association (CSPA) members have been advocating, MPG Canada calls on the Canadian government to be prepared to react quickly to safeguard the long-term viability of Canadian steel product manufacturers, and the collective job security of its employees.

Be it resolved that the Township of Champlain supports The Canada Metal Processing Group ("MPG Canada") in its request to the Canadian Government to immediately:

- Prepare to implement matching retaliatory tariff measures without any consultation delay;
- Provide support for workers and businesses during this economic crisis;
- Prevent the ever-increasing unfairly traded imports from other countries into Canada and protect the domestic industry by instituting broad Section 53 surtaxes, without any possible exemptions;
- Promote buying Canadian steel, with its much lower carbon intensity than imports; and
- Work in collaboration with the U.S. to create an aligned North American steel trade market for melted and poured North American steel.

Be it further resolved that this Resolution be circulated to:

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister of Canada),

• The Hon. Melanie Joly (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada),

• The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith (Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada),

• Premier of Ontario,

• Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade,

• Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,

• Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM),

• Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),

- Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA),
- Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus,
- The Hon. Francis Drouin, MP - Glengarry-Prescott-Russell,
- Member of Provincial Parliament, MPP – Glengarry-Prescott-Russell,
- The Canadian Steel Producer Association,• MPG Canada,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and
- All of Ontario's municipalities.

Carried

Certified True Copy of Resolution

Alison Collard, Clerk

Date:

Canton de Champlain
Résolution
Réunion régulière du Conseil

No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 15.3.
No. du point 2025-071
Titre: Canada Metal Processing Group - Annonce des mesures à prendre pour répondre aux menaces tarifaires américaines sur le secteur de l'acier
Date: le 27 février 2025

Proposée par: Paul Emile Duval

Appuyée par: Michel Lalonde

Attendu que le maintien d'une industrie sidérurgique nationale saine et de sa clientèle, qui transforme l'acier en produits sidérurgiques, est essentiel à la stabilité économique d'une nation souveraine indépendante et autonome ; et

Attendu que l'acier est une industrie fondamentale pour la production de produits de base et d'infrastructures pour des industries essentielles telles que la défense, l'approvisionnement en énergie, qu'il s'agisse de combustibles fossiles ou d'énergie verte, la majorité des industries manufacturières telles que l'automobile, le transport, l'équipement lourd, ainsi que la construction de logements et d'infrastructures ; et

Attendu que le Groupe de transformation des métaux Canada (« MPG Canada ») de Heico Companies exploite trois entreprises (Ivaco Rolling Mills, Sivaco et Infasco) sur six sites de fabrication au Québec et en Ontario et qu'il emploie environ 1 600 personnes. L'organisation exploite une aciérie à four électrique à arc (FEA) ultramoderne et une coulée de billettes, un laminoir à barres à deux brins, une installation de traitement des barres, deux laminoirs à fil, une installation de fabrication de boulons, une installation de fabrication d'écrous et une installation de revêtement d'attaches en acier. MPG Canada s'efforce d'offrir la meilleure expérience à ses clients en livrant des produits sidérurgiques de grande valeur et de conception durable dans toute l'Amérique du Nord ; et

Attendu que, face aux menaces de tarifs américains, et comme les membres de l'Association canadienne des producteurs d'acier (ACPA) l'ont préconisé, MPG Canada demande au gouvernement canadien d'être prêt à réagir rapidement pour protéger la viabilité à long terme des fabricants canadiens de produits d'acier et la sécurité d'emploi collective de ses employés.

Qu'il soit résolu que le Canton de Champlain appuie le Canada Metal Processing Group (« MPG Canada ») dans sa demande au gouvernement canadien de réagir immédiatement :

- Se préparer à mettre en œuvre des mesures tarifaires de rétorsion correspondantes sans délai de consultation ;
- Soutenir les travailleurs et les entreprises pendant cette crise économique ;
- Empêcher l'augmentation constante des importations déloyales d'autres pays vers le Canada et protéger l'industrie nationale en instituant de larges surtaxes au titre de l'article 53, sans aucune exemption possible ;
- Promouvoir l'achat d'acier canadien, dont l'intensité en carbone est bien inférieure à celle des importations ; et
- Travailler en collaboration avec les États-Unis pour créer un marché nord-américain aligné pour l'acier nord-américain fondu et coulé.

De plus, qu'il soit résolu que la présente résolution soit diffusée auprès de :

- Le très honorable Justin Trudeau (Premier ministre du Canada),
- L'honorable Mélanie Joly (ministre des Affaires étrangères Canada),
- L'honorable Nate Erskine-Smith (ministre du Logement, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités Canada),
- le premier ministre de l'Ontario,
- Le ministre du Développement économique, de la Création d'emplois et du Commerce de l'Ontario,
- le ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement de l'Ontario,

- Fédération canadienne des municipalités (FCM),
- Association des municipalités de l'Ontario (AMO),
- l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario (ROMA),
- le Caucus des gardiens de l'Est de l'Ontario,
- L'honorable Francis Drouin, député de Glengarry-Prescott-Russell,
- Membre du Parlement provincial, MPP - Glengarry-Prescott-Russell,
- L'Association canadienne des producteurs d'acier,
- MPG Canada,
- L'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario, et
- Toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario

Adoptée

Copie certifiée conforme

Alison Collard, greffière Date :

Source: Canada Metal Processing Group

February 24, 2025 10:32 ET

Canada Metal Processing Group announces steps to respond to U.S. tariff threats on steel sector

BROSSARD, Quebec, Feb. 24, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Canada Metal Processing Group (MPG Canada) and its subsidiaries, Ivaco Rolling Mills, Sivaco, and Infasco, are announcing the difficult but necessary steps to respond to the current challenging market environment and the threat of incoming tariffs from the United States on steel and steel derivatives. These measures will help maintain the majority of MPG Canada's footprint and workforce while reacting to the impact that these threats are already having on the company's demand for its products destined directly and indirectly, via our Canadian customers, to U.S. customers.

In light of lower anticipated demand and production volume, due to U.S. tariff threats and trade challenges in Canada with increasing imports, the measures include a workforce reduction of 140 production and office employees in Ontario and Quebec, implementation of cost savings actions, and the cancellation or pause of some projects. These steps will enable MPG Canada to remain competitive to service our customers and protect the business in the short-term.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for our company, and not one that was made lightly, but necessary for the business in the current environment," said MPG Canada President Matt Walker. "Our employees are the backbone of our operations. They work hard, day in and day out, to create steel products which are recognized for their quality and good customer service while being an integral part of the Canada-U.S. supply chain."

Soft market in 2024, weak North American macroeconomic demand linked to a U.S. election year, the increased challenge of unfair trade imports into Canada, and now the imminent threat of 25% U.S. tariffs on steel sector and 25% on all Canadian products into the U.S., are having serious impacts on the demand for MPG Canada products.

"While it is impossible at this juncture to predict how long these actions by the United States will last, the Canadian government must be prepared to react quickly to safeguard the long-term viability of Canadian steel product manufacturers, and the collective job security of our employees," said Walker. "Maintaining a healthy domestic steel manufacturing industry and their customer base, who transform steel to steel products, is critical to the economic stability of an independent and autonomous sovereign nation. Steel is a foundational industry to produce core products and infrastructure for essential industries e.g., defence, energy supply both fossil fuels and green energy, majority of industrial manufacturing e.g., automotive, transport, heavy equipment and essential for housing and infrastructure construction."

In the face of U.S. tariff threats, and as the Canadian Steel Producer Association (CSPA) members have been advocating, MPG Canada calls on the Canadian government to immediately:

- Prepare to implement matching retaliatory tariff measures without any consultation delay.
- Provide support for workers and businesses during this economic crisis.
- Prevent the ever-increasing unfairly traded imports from other countries into Canada and protect the domestic industry by instituting broad Section 53 surtaxes, without any possible exemptions.

- Promote buying Canadian steel, with its much lower carbon intensity than imports.
- Work in collaboration with the U.S. to create an aligned North American steel trade market for melted and poured North American steel

About Canada Metal Processing Group

The Heico Companies' Canada Metal Processing Group operates three businesses (Ivaco Rolling Mills, Sivaco, and Infasco) over 6 manufacturing sites in Quebec and Ontario and employs approximately 1600 individuals. The organization operates a state-of-the-art electric arc furnace (EAF) steel plant and billet caster, a two-strand rod mill, a rod processing facility, two wire mills, a bolt manufacturing facility, a nut manufacturing facility and a steel fastener coating facility. Canada Metal Processing Group strives to offer the best customer experience by delivering high-value and sustainably engineered steel products across North America.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Frédéric Perron | Director, Marketing and Business Development
Canada Metal Processing Group, part of The Heico Companies
fperron@mpg.heicocompanies.com



Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
100 Dissette St., Unit 7&8
P.O. Box 100, Bradford, Ontario, L3Z 2A7
Telephone: 905-775-5366
Fax: 905-775-0153
www.townofbwg.com

March 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Hon. Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford

Re: Motion to Request Landlord Tenant Reforms

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution 2025-79
Moved: Councillor Giordano
Seconded: Councillor Dykie

WHEREAS Ontario has expanded the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) framework to address the housing supply crisis, which includes the need to balance the interests of both tenants and small-scale landlords;

WHEREAS small-scale landlords may face financial strain when tenants withhold rent in bad faith, and delayed dispute resolution systems can result in undue hardship for landlords, while also affecting tenants' security and well-being;

WHEREAS it is crucial to support the development of legal ADUs and secondary rentals while ensuring tenants' rights are respected and upheld;

WHEREAS proposed reforms could include:

- Accelerating dispute resolution for ADUs and secondary rentals at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) within 30 days, ensuring fairness for both tenants and landlords
- Introducing mediation services to resolve disputes quickly and amicably, reducing reliance on lengthy hearings
- Providing both landlords and tenants with enhanced tools for clear communication, such as standardized rental agreements and better screening practices

- Strengthening protections for tenants against unfair eviction while enforcing stricter penalties for tenants withholding rent in bad faith
- Ensuring law enforcement access to properties only under appropriate circumstances, respecting tenants' rights while supporting landlords in the resolution of unpaid rent issues
- Establishing a hardship relief fund for landlords impacted by unpaid rent, while ensuring tenants are also supported in cases of financial distress
- Offering free or low-cost legal assistance to both landlords and tenants to navigate disputes fairly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council requests the provincial government to look at ways to implement these balanced reforms that protect both small-scale landlords and tenants, ensuring fairness in the rental market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, our local Member of Provincial Parliament, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Attorney General, and all Ontario municipalities to support the creation of balanced protections for both landlords and tenants

CARRIED.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104
treynolds@townofbwg.com

CC: President of Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Robin Jones - resolutions@amo.on.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - minister.mah@ontario.ca
Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General - attorneygeneral@ontario.ca
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
Office of the City Clerk

March 6, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: Carbon Tax

Dear Prime Minister,

At the meeting of Sarnia City Council held on March 3, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

That given the advent of the US tariffs and the economic impact on Canadians it is even more critical at this time to petition our own Federal liberal government to put a stop the 20 percent increase to the carbon tax scheduled to be implemented April 1, 2025. The vast majority of Canadians do not support the carbon tax, and the timing could not be worse for the impact to our citizens; and

That the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, Leaders of Opposition, our MP, and All Ontario Municipalities.

Your consideration of this matter is respectfully requested.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Burkhart
City Clerk

Cc: Cabinet Ministers
The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, M.P.
The Honourable Marilyn Gladu, M.P.
All Ontario Municipalities



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

March 5, 2025

ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

Re: Resolution regarding “Buy Local and Canadian”

At its regular meeting of Council held on March 5, 2025, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution #: 10

Moved by: B. Metzger

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

All Township residents be encouraged to “Buy Local and Canadian”;

That a “Buy Local and Buy Canadian” approach for municipal procurement be implemented where feasible and in line with best value principles;

That staff be directed to review current procurement practices and identify opportunities to enhance local purchasing in response to recent U.S. tariffs and economic pressures; and

That staff be directed to prohibit procurement of U.S. goods and services where possible; and

That staff be directed to report back on any opportunities found to modify procurement policies and practices to support “Buy Local and Buy Canadian” where practical.

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk

C: AMO