



**Report**  
**Staff Report**  
The Corporation of the City of Brampton  
4/23/2025

**Date:** 2025-04-16

**Subject:** **Brampton's Economic Resilience: Tariff Action Plan**

**Contact:** Paul Aldunate, Senior Manager, Economic Development and International Relations, Economic Development

**Report number:** CAO's Office-2025-322

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report from Paul Aldunate, Senior Manager, Economic Development and International Relations to the Committee of Council Meeting of April 23, 2025, re: **Brampton's Economic Resilience: Tariff Action Plan**, be received;
2. That Council endorse Brampton's Tariff Action Plan.
3. That staff continue to monitor the trade relationship with the United States and provide updates as required regarding Brampton's Tariff Action Plan.

**OVERVIEW:**

- This report provides an overview of Brampton's Tariff Action Plan, including recommendations on supply chain stability, workforce development and trade diversification.
- Recent U.S. tariffs have strained Canada-U.S. trade, prompting Canadian countermeasures and Brampton's local economic response.
- U.S. tariffs have impacted Brampton's key sectors, including advanced manufacturing, automotive, steel and aluminum and food processing.
- On February 26, 2025, City Council passed a motion calling for strong, reciprocal measures and created the Mayor's Tariff Task Force to support economic resilience and explore non-U.S. market opportunities.
- The first Task Force meeting was held on April 8, 2025, giving local businesses a forum to share concerns and help shape the City's strategic response.

- **Feedback from the Task Force roundtable and citywide outreach identified key sector-specific concerns.**
- **The proposed Tariff Action Plan highlights Brampton’s proactive measures, including the Mayor’s Task Force, the City’s “Made in Canada” procurement policies and advocacy efforts such as the *Stand for Canada* campaign.**
- **This report also recaps the City’s actions to date in response to existing and proposed U.S. tariffs.**
- **There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.**

## **BACKGROUND:**

Canada and the United States (U.S.) share one of the most closely connected and successful economic partnerships in the world. Decades of trade between the two nations have fueled consistent economic growth, job creation and prosperity. However, a shift toward protectionism by the current U.S. administration, highlighted by new policy decisions such as tariffs, has significantly disturbed Canadian confidence in this vital economic relationship. In January, the U.S. administration announced a series of directives with the aim of prioritizing U.S. business, workers and industries.

To date, the U.S. has imposed several tariffs on goods imported from Canada. A general 25% tariff applies to most Canadian imports with exceptions for those under the existing Canada-United States – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). Energy and potash were tariffed at a lower 10%, while Canadian steel and aluminum are subject to a separate 25% levy. A further 25% tariff on all cars and trucks not built in the U.S. was announced on March 26, 2025, and took effect on April 2, 2025.

In response to these U.S. actions, Canada has also imposed a tariff on American goods. Effective March 4, 2025, Canada placed a 25% tariff on \$30 billion worth of U.S. products. This was followed by additional tariffs on \$29.8 billion worth of U.S. projects, introduced by the Canadian government on March 13, 2025.

Furthermore, in direct response to the U.S. tariffs on vehicles, Canada implemented a 25% tariff on all U.S. vehicles that don’t meet the requirements of, effective April 9, 2025. Notably, the Canadian automotive tariffs will not apply to auto parts, acknowledging the importance of the integrated North American production system, nor will they apply to vehicles from Mexico. The CUSMA free trade agreement is scheduled for review in 2026.

The City has been proactive in its response to the potential and actual impacts of these tariffs on the local economy. Key actions have so far included:

- **January 29, 2025:** Council directed staff to explore options for a “Made in Canada” procurement policy.
- **February 26, 2025:** Mayor Brown announced the creation of a Tariff Task Force to engage with local business leaders, assess the impact of U.S. tariffs, gather input and coordinate collaborative action.
- **March 3, 2025:** The City announced a “Made in Canada” procurement policy. This policy prioritizes Canadian businesses in City procurement, with exceptions made for American vendors only under specific circumstances. The City spends over \$350 million annually on goods, services, and construction, with approximately 10% of active contracts (valued at \$35 million) awarded directly to U.S. vendors. Notably, over 98% of the City’s vendors are based in Canada.

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

The City is actively responding to the U.S. tariffs through several key strategies (Attachment 1), including:

- A national campaign to promote “Made in Canada” procurement,
- Advocacy at various levels of government (Attachment 3),
- Support for local businesses,
- Initiatives to help businesses access new international markets,
- Enhanced efforts to attract investment
- The use of investment incentives such as the recently announced exemption for development charges (DCs) on eligible office developments, and
- The Mayor’s Tariff Task Force.

Insights from the Mayor’s Tariff Task Force have helped shape Brampton’s Tariff Action Plan (Attachment 2) and will guide efforts focused on reducing red tape, streamlining procurement, advocacy and providing relief to impacted sectors.

The Economic Development Office continues to monitor and assess the impact of tariffs on businesses and to advocate for supportive measures across all levels of government

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

#### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. Any incentives related to development charges (DCs) exemption will be addressed through Council-approved reports, as applicable.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:**

*Growing Urban Centres and Neighbourhoods:* Focusing on an economy that thrives with communities that are strong and connected. The establishment of the Economic Resilience Plan will help the City support business, innovation, and vitality, foster economic mobility of Brampton residents, and partner with key stakeholders to promote the City's investment opportunities.

**CONCLUSION:**

The recent wave of U.S. tariffs has significantly impacted Brampton's key industries and supply chains, necessitating an urgent and coordinated local response. The Mayor's Tariff Task Force has been instrumental in gathering industry feedback and shaping a strategic, community-driven approach to ensure the resilience and competitiveness of Brampton businesses. Through initiatives such as the Stand for Canada campaign, targeted procurement policies and a dynamic Tariff Action Plan, the City continues to lead by example by advocating for local jobs, trade diversification and a streamlined regulatory environment, while also exploring new market opportunities beyond the U.S. These collaborative efforts will be vital in securing Brampton's long-term economic stability and reinforcing its role in Canada's economic future.

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**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – City of Brampton Tariff Response Actions
- Attachment 2 – Strategies for Economic Resilience: Tariff Action Plan
- Attachment 3 – City of Brampton Federal Advocacy Letters

- Attachment 4 – Key Industry Facts
- Attachment 5 – Sample BEC Export Webinar Tiles