

# All-In Canada Plan

When a crisis strikes, it's all hands on deck. That means hands are at the helm and leaders are at their posts ready to respond with confidence and work with the full breadth and expertise that can be brought to bear.

President Trump's tariff strategy has rocked Canadians like few crises before it. Businesses are rising to the challenge, focused on what they can do to diversify their markets, protect their supply chains, and ultimately continue to succeed in this new economic order.

When we turn to the federal government, we see Parliament closed. Canadians need their government to be all-in working with the business community on multipartisan policy solutions, passed by Parliament, that give Canadians confidence that their leaders are acting with the very best our government can muster. We cannot wait 6–8 more weeks to get to the critical work of protecting Canadian jobs, families and our sovereignty.

Today, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is calling on the government to reconvene Parliament, and all parties to get back to work on behalf of Canadians. We need to send a strong message to President Trump and the world that we will rise to this occasion, as a unified Canada. Tariffs tomorrow instead of tariffs today still leave businesses, workers and families in the lurch. \$3.6 billion in trade every day hangs in the balance, as shown by the Canadian Chamber's Canada-U.S. Trade Tracker.

With Parliament reconvened, we can work together, government and business leaders, and build a multipartisan all-in plan that addresses the critical roadblocks that have until now left us far too dependent on trade with the United States. The Canadian Chamber Network is working on these areas and stands ready and able to help with the heavy lifting as we know firsthand what's at stake for our communities across this country. What we do today in response to President Trump cannot be incremental; to meet this moment, we must be nothing short of transformational.

#### Priorities for a multipartisan plan need to include the following:

### Internal Trade

Identify and remove barriers to selling goods in other provinces and across Canada. In the face of a 25% tariff, Canadian companies simply cannot absorb the cost of navigating a maze of competing provincial and federal rules and regulations. We need a multi-partisan effort to clean this up, and we needed it yesterday.

## Trade Infrastructure

We must expand our roads, rail, airports, port infrastructure and new pipelines — all made with Canadian steel — in order to transport our goods and resources safely and efficiently across our country. We must give Canadian businesses a channel to take their goods to markets overseas; they simply can't replace the lost volume of trade by using our existing infrastructure.



# **Red Tape Reduction**

Federal and provincial governments need to reduce red tape and make running a business and getting things built more efficient. It cannot be acceptable to delay critical infrastructure or business entrepreneurship by months or years while forms and duplicate assessments are completed. While projects are delayed, thousands of Canadian businesses and millions of families continue to lose.

## Lower Taxation

We must reduce taxes on businesses and individuals as well as reduce fees and other costs that are burdening Canadian businesses and making them less efficient. We are now in direct competition with the United States, and our tax rates must be competitive.

Finally, while we must diversify our trading relationships abroad, we cannot give up on our relationship with the United States. Government and business must collaborate to foster a renewed trading relationship with the United States, built on the fundamental principle that both countries will succeed if we work together. As President Trump has proven all too clearly, we will not successfully negotiate a new deal from a position of weakness.

Canada is and has always been a trading nation. Throughout our history, we forged new paths and built global relationships to help grow Canada into what it is today. Whether President Trump follows through with tariffs today or tomorrow, he has achieved two things that might surprise him: He has united our country in ways few if any domestic efforts could ever dream of, and he's made it plain and obvious that we cannot solely rely on the United States for our economic security. It's time to return to our roots and forge new trading paths across the world with like-minded countries who are eager to buy our goods and resources.

#### **Candace Laing**

President and CEO Canadian Chamber of Commerce