



Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 5, 2025

To: County Council

Report Number: CAO 2025-03

Title: County Tariff Response

Author: Sheridan Graham, CAO/Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Recommendation: That Report CAO 2025-03, County Tariff Response, be received;

That if the proposed penalty tariffs are put in place by the United States of America (“U.S.”), staff be directed to implement the actions identified in the Peterborough County Tariff Implications and Response Actions Plan and report back to Council as applicable; and

That a letter be sent to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting that a “Stay Local” tax credit (similar to that given during COVID in Ontario) be implemented in 2025 to support Canadian resident tourism in Canada.

Overview

This report is to provide Council with details of a coordinated Peterborough County response to the U.S. Tariffs imposed.

Background

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, U.S. President, Donald Trump announced crippling levies of 25% on Canadian exports and a 10 percent tariff on Canadian Energy. To counter these U.S. tariffs, Canada responded by applying 25% tariffs on \$30 billion worth of American goods coming into Canada as of Tuesday February 4, 2025, with further tariffs and non-tariff responses to follow. On February 3, 2025, a temporary pause was announced for 30 days on the implementation of tariffs.



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Analysis

While it is important to recognize that this is a fluid situation with many changes and reactions expected; the Canadian reliance on trade with the U.S. has been fundamentally disrupted and vulnerabilities exposed. Managing this disruption will require both short-term and long-term reactions and will require significant collaboration with partners.

The Peterborough County Tariff Implications and Response Actions Plan was created by staff to identify specific strategies and actions that the County will undertake to assist businesses and residents during this time. Specifically, we have identified opportunities that our Economic Development, Tourism and Communications teams will execute in the immediate and mid-term. Additionally, recommendations and actions have been identified to enhance our Purchasing Policy and processes included in the plan and to be brought back to Council by the Finance Department.

Financial Impact

The economic impacts of the U.S. tariffs and any Canadian imposed counter-tariffs will be significant. It is hoped that with many of the initiatives identified at all levels of government and private industry that the effects will be minimized.

Anticipated Impacts on Local and/or First Nations Communities

Our local townships and First Nations are part of our Economic Development working group and collaborate with staff frequently.

In consultation with:

1. Jennifer Stover, Deputy CAO, CFO, CIO
2. Rhonda Keenan, General Manager of Economic Development
3. Tracie Bertrand, General Manager of Tourism & Communications
4. Leadership Team

Communication Completed/required:

As detailed in the plan.



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Attachments:

Appendix A - Draft Peterborough County Tariff Implications and Recommended Actions Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Sheridan Graham, CAO/Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

MISSION

Peterborough County is an upper tier municipal government serving residents, visitors, and eight townships to meet the needs of our community, in consultation with First Nations. The County provides paramedic services (emergency and community); public works and land use planning services as well as partnered services including public health, economic development and tourism, municipal long-term care, social and children's services, and housing support.

VISION

Working together with our townships and service delivery partners to provide high quality municipal services to our communities.

