



Dear Ontario Chamber Network colleagues,

Canada has arrived at the moment we all feared: despite the overwhelming economic logic of avoiding a tariff and trade war, it is now upon us.

Even if the hours to come bring us a last-minute reprieve, it's clear that the threat will continue, and that the new U.S. administration will be unreliable at best and untrustworthy at worst in its treatment of its closest customer, partner and ally.

If there is any good news in all this, it's the extraordinary unity we are seeing among Canadians – and the seriousness with which our political leaders are now taking the recommendations that Chambers of Commerce have been making for years.

As a result, we all have a unique opportunity to be more indispensable partners to business than ever before.

Here are a few things the Ontario Chamber is doing:

**Ontario Business & Trade Leadership Coalition:** The OCC [has set up this coalition of leaders from Ontario's trade-dependent sectors](#) to advise government and support Ontario business competitiveness – both immediately and in the longer term. We have an emergency meeting of the Coalition with Premier Ford later today.

**Pan-Canadian advocacy on interprovincial trade:** In January, the OCC coordinated a [unified call from every provincial chamber CEO in Canada](#) for the premiers to act with urgency to dismantle interprovincial trade barriers. We are also working at the federal level, coordinating a meeting of business leaders with the Hon. Anita Anand, the federal minister responsible for internal trade, to press this case further.

**U.S. advocacy:** Since last summer, we have been proactive in ensuring U.S. chambers fully understand the importance of their trade relationship with Ontario and Canada. Next week, I am joining Premier Ford in Washington as he addresses the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) and hosts a reception for senior American business leaders.



**Support for Ontario SMEs:** The OCC is ramping up [educational content to help local businesses](#) understand how to navigate U.S. tariffs. Later this week, we are meeting with the Canadian Marketing Association to discuss a new “shop local” campaign, building on Canadians’ desire to support one another at this critical time.

**Ontario election advocacy:** Also last week, the OCC released [Ontario Competes](#), our priorities for the 2025 provincial election. These recommendations are essential to enhance Ontario’s competitiveness and ensure our resilience to future geopolitical and economic threats. We hope you will join us in amplifying it with local candidates from all parties, and urging local businesses and media to join in this advocacy.

**Please join us for our special Ontario Chamber Network Town Hall on Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> to learn more about these initiatives and to offer us your perspectives on how we can support Ontario businesses now and in the future.**

We are grateful for your support and partnership, which is essential to our collective impact. That’s one reason I remain optimistic that Ontario and Canada will emerge from this crisis stronger.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Tisch'.

Daniel Tisch, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D  
President and CEO

Ontario Chamber of Commerce