



NIAGARA 8



March 24, 2025

Local Leaders in Western New York and Southern Ontario (“Niagara 8”) Share their Concern over Trade Impacts and Tense Relations between the United States and Canada

We, the undersigned elected officials, representing the Niagara 8 – the County of Erie, New York; the City of Buffalo, New York; the County of Niagara, New York; the City of Niagara Falls, New York; the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario; the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario; the Town of Fort Erie, Ontario; the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario – are deeply concerned with the heated rhetoric, political posturing, and real-world economic consequences happening between our two nations.

For those of us who live along our shared border, there has never been an “us or them” dynamic between our two countries; rather we view ourselves as tied together geographically, economically, and culturally. That is what has made the current climate over trade so disheartening. The Western New York region and the Niagara Region of Southern Ontario are intrinsically linked and interdependent. Unnecessary tariffs harm both our regions and countries.

There may be disagreements within our countries on a path forward. But these issues need to be settled diplomatically and negotiated in good faith. A verbal barrage of back and forth across the border serves no purpose and brings us no closer to a resolution. And, a prolonged disagreement of this nature only exacerbates the potential harm to our residents and businesses.

We all understand that the longstanding relationship between our two regions is based on mutual respect, one in which businesses in both regions rely on our cross-border economic successes. Counterproductive tariffs damage this mutually beneficial relationship between our countries and regions. They put investment, jobs and overall economic activity on both sides of the border at risk.

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Canada and the US are, respectively, each country’s largest export market. By the numbers:

- \$2.5 billion (US dollars) worth of goods cross the Canadian-American border each day;
- \$6 billion (US dollars) in lumber and wood products for the US homebuilding industry came from Canada in 2024; and
- 70% of all Canadian imports to the US are used to manufacture other US-made products;

As local and regional leaders, we will do all we can to support our local businesses, our communities, our workers and families, and our longstanding shared relationship across the Niagara River. We call on all leaders and officials to do the same. The Niagara 8 will continue to advocate for our region and show how government works best when it works together.

Sincerely,



James Bradley
Chair, Regional Municipality of Niagara



James Diodati
Mayor of Niagara Falls, Ontario



Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor of Fort Erie

Robert M. Restaino

Robert M. Restaino
Mayor of Niagara Falls, New York



Christopher P. Scanlon
Mayor of Buffalo



Rebecca J. Wydysh
Chair, Niagara County Legislature



Gary Zalepa
Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake