



Ken Neumann
National Director / Directeur national

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Via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justice Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I am writing regarding the issues facing Canada's aluminum and steel industries in the face of the imposition this week of tariffs in those industries by the U.S. Administration.

First, on behalf of our tens of thousands of Canadian members in aluminum and steel, I want to thank you and Minister Freeland for your efforts in helping to persuade the U.S. Government to provide Canada with a temporary exemption to these tariffs. Our Union's International President, Leo Gerard, together with myself and our Canadian Directors have all spoken with one voice regarding these tariffs: Canada is not the problem and should be exempt from steel and aluminum tariffs. We all agree that there is simply no basis to conclude that imports of Canadian steel or aluminum into the U.S. market represent a threat to U.S. national security and we have taken this message to the White House and to the public on both sides of the border.

Having said that, we are still concerned that Canadian steel and aluminum have only been granted a temporary exemption from the tariffs, and the U.S. President maintains that that the exemption will be connected to the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

As a result of this uncertainty, the Canadian government must continue to aggressively lobby the U.S. government, congresspersons, and state leaders to secure a full exemption from U.S. tariffs for Canadian steel and aluminum producers. Our Union will certainly continue its efforts to obtain a permanent exemption for Canada.

I am also writing to you regarding your tour of aluminum and steel communities next week. Unfortunately I will be out of the country on a long scheduled trip, but I have no doubt that you will have an opportunity to meet with many Steelworkers over the course of your tour.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union
Syndicat international des travailleurs unis de la métallurgie, du papier et de la foresterie, du caoutchouc,
de la fabrication, de l'énergie, des services et industries connexes

800-234 av. Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto ON Canada M4P 1K7 • 416-487-1571 • 416-482-5548 (Fax/Télec.) • www.usw.ca • www.metallos.ca

The imposition of the tariffs raises several urgent issues that the Canadian government must address. First, Canada's exposure to offshore diversion as a result of U.S. tariffs is severe. Canada must immediately take steps to protect Canadian steel and aluminum imports from the diversion of cheap imports from the U.S. into Canada.

To this end, the Canadian government must be prepared to utilize existing policy tools, including targeted government-initiated WTO compatible safeguard actions and government-initiated trade cases to preserve the stability of the Canadian market and prevent a surge of steel and aluminum imports into Canada.

Canada also needs to increase the resources to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to ensure that Canada can investigate and respond to increased dumping of product into the Canadian market.

The Canadian government must also signal to the U.S. Administration that it is committed to cooperate with the United States to address the very real problem of cheap imports directly or indirectly entering the North American market (e.g. "circumvention" and "transshipment").

Over the medium to longer-term, the Canadian government must follow through on its promise to allow trade unions the full right to participate in all aspects of trade cases, as well as the right to file trade complaints under the Special Import Measures Act (SIMA). Full participation of unions in trade remedy proceedings is a critical component of an effective trade remedy system.

We are happy to work with you on this issue to ensure that Canada's aluminum and steel industry workers are protected from these tariffs and their pernicious side effects. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Neumann
National Director for Canada

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c.c.: Minister Chrystia Freeland
Leo W. Gerard, USW International President
Steve Hunt, USW District 3 Director
Alain Croteau, USW District 5 Director
Marty Warren, USSW District 6 Director

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