

We are writing today to advise of the Town of Goderich's deep concern regarding recent rhetoric from the American federal government including threats to annex Canada, and American tariffs on Canadian goods. As a community that values the long-standing cooperation between our nations, we appeal to you as leaders in your community to advocate for the end of such damaging rhetoric and policies.

Canada is a proud nation with our own democratic system, values, and identity. As Canadians, we hold a deep commitment to our sovereignty and independence, and we are overwhelmingly opposed to President Trump's annexation rhetoric. American threats to annex Canada disregard the liberty, democracy, and self-determination that both of our nations hold in high esteem. They undermine the peace and respect that have long defined the relationship between our two countries, they are an affront to Canadian values and destabilize our cooperative future.

American tariffs on Canadian goods present significant economic problems for both our countries. Canada is the United States' largest trading partner with over \$700 billion in goods and services exchanged annually (*Government of Canada, 2024*). American and Canadian businesses rely on our integrated supply chains to thrive. Tariffs will disrupt this flow of goods, raise prices for consumers, and hurt local businesses on both sides of the border. In fact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has estimated that American tariffs on Canadian goods could result in up to \$40 billion in losses for American businesses and consumers (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 2023*).

Like many other municipalities in Canada, the Town of Goderich shares strong ties with the United States through trade, tourism, and business. These connections have fostered economic development, supported jobs, and created a robust relationship that benefits communities on both sides of the border. We ask that you, as local leaders, urge your federal government to end the rhetoric of annexation and any other threats or economic actions that disrupt our strong, peaceful, and mutually beneficial relationship. The economic and social consequences of continued tensions are felt in all communities that depend on cross-border trade, tourism, and cooperation.

We urge you to advocate for policies that foster collaboration and mutual respect. As community leaders, we have a unique role to play in building bridges between our nations. We are at our best when we work together, and it is crucial that we continue to nurture the strong, cooperative relationship we have built to foster peace and prosperity between our countries.