

March 21, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, M.P.  
Leader of the Official Opposition

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, M.P.  
Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.  
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

**Re: Protecting Canadian manufacturers and workers from the ongoing tariffs and tariff threats**

Dear Prime Minister Carney, Mr. Poilievre, Mr. Blanchet, and Mr. Singh:

I am following up on a [letter from Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters \(CME\) that was sent to federal party leaders on January 15](#) regarding the escalating tariff threats from the United States. In that letter, we shared data from manufacturers underscoring the immediate and significant risks tariffs pose to thousands of Canadian jobs and businesses. We urged the government to develop targeted and effective measures to protect Canada's manufacturing footprint.

The March 12 imposition of U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, coupled with the ongoing threat of broader tariffs is creating significant disruption in Canada's manufacturing sector, placing thousands of jobs at risk. This instability has forced manufacturers to pause millions of dollars of planned investments in equipment, facilities, and productivity-enhancing upgrades. Worse yet, many organizations have begun the painful process of laying off workers. If this trend continues, Canada risks irreparable damage to our manufacturing footprint and supply chains.

We recognize the federal government's efforts to support businesses and employees through the measures announced on March 7, including the expansion of the work-sharing program. While these measures are steps in the right direction they will be insufficient to stabilize the sector if the U.S. proceeds with broader tariffs on or after April 2.

Based on extensive discussions with manufacturers over the past several weeks, CME urges the federal government to act decisively on two fronts to help stabilize manufacturing businesses and protect jobs:

- **Accelerate and Simplify the Remissions Process** – Many manufacturers report that the remissions process is overly complex and slow. Given these unprecedented circumstances, a multi-month-long process is not sufficient. The Government must allocate additional resources to simplify and expedite the processing of remission claims to ensure manufacturers receive timely relief.
- **Short-Term Tariff Relief Program** – The federal government should establish a temporary federal cost-coverage mechanism to offset the immediate impact of tariffs and provide liquidity to Canadian manufacturers. Proactively announcing direct relief measures for manufacturers - those hit hardest by U.S. actions – can help prevent further shifts of production, investment, and expansion from Canada to the U.S. These relief measures could be funded using revenues from counter-tariffs.

The harm caused by these unjustified tariffs is exacerbated by longstanding structural challenges in the Canadian economy –chronic productivity issues, skills shortages, and an uncompetitive tax and regulatory environment—that were already constraining investment prior to this crisis. In our January 15 letter, we emphasized the need for urgent structural reforms to bolster Canada’s economic resilience and sovereignty. This includes moving quickly to: reduce red-tape and regulatory barriers to growth, eliminate interprovincial trade barriers, develop a Buy-Canadian procurement strategy and implement tax reforms and investment incentives to enhance competitiveness. In the coming weeks, CME will be looking to all parties to put forward concrete policy proposals to address these critical issues.

Last week, CME conducted 23 meetings with lawmakers and advisors in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Despite the harmful and unjustified actions taken by the U.S. administration, we encountered strong bipartisan interest on Capitol Hill for finding a resolution to the current crisis. CME remains committed to working closely with government and industry partners on both sides of the border to try to bring an end to these threats to restore stability and repair what has been one of the most successful bi-lateral economic relationships in the world.

CME stands stand ready to collaborate with all parties to develop and implement targeted, effective short-and long-term policies to protect Canadian manufacturers, support their workers and drive growth.

Sincerely,



Dennis Darby, P. Eng., JCD.D  
President & CEO