DISPATCH FROM PARLIAMENT HILL

HON. KARINA GOULD
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BURLINGTON



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ARE U.S. TARIFFS AFFECTING YOUR BUSINESS?

My office is here to help.

Dear Burlington business owner,

Burlington is home to an incredible community of entrepreneurs, manufacturers, small businesses and employers. I know how much you contribute to our city, not only through the jobs you create, products you make, and the services you provide, but through the families you support and the community you help build.

I also know that the uncertainty created by U.S. tariffs is very real. For many local businesses, this is not simply a headline or a trade statistic. It can mean higher costs, disrupted supply chains, pressure on cash flow, difficult decisions about investments or hiring, and uncertainty about what the months ahead may bring. Burlington businesses with U.S. customers or suppliers, particularly those in manufacturing and industries that rely on steel and aluminum, are among those feeling these pressures.

I want you to know that you are not expected to navigate these challenges alone.

The Government of Canada has introduced new and expanded supports to help businesses respond to tariff pressures, strengthen their competitiveness, protect workers and diversify into new markets. In the following pages, I have outlined some of the programs and resources that may be helpful to you and your business. But more importantly, my office, Discover Burlington, and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce are here to help you navigate them.

If you are unsure which program applies to your business, are having difficulty accessing federal support, or simply want to know what these tariffs mean to your organization, please reach out. My team and I can help identify the appropriate federal programs, connect you with FedDev Ontario or other federal departments and agencies, and make sure the experiences of Burlington businesses are heard in Ottawa.

Burlington businesses have shown tremendous resilience through challenging times before. I have every confidence in the people who drive our local economy, and I will continue working alongside you to protect local jobs, support growth and help ensure Burlington businesses have the tools they need to succeed.

We are a team in Burlington and we will face these challenges together.

Warmly,

HON. KARINA **GOULD**
MP FOR BURLINGTON

In this Issue:

- Federal Supports for Tariff-Affected Businesses
- Mayor's Taskforce
- Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI)

FEDERAL SUPPORTS
FOR TARIFF-AFFECTED BUSINESSES

The Government of Canada has introduced a range of supports to help businesses respond to U.S. tariffs, adapt, remain competitive and build long-term resilience.

Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI)

FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES (SMEs)

Delivered in southern Ontario through FedDev Ontario, RTRI supports tariff-affected SMEs to adapt, improve productivity, diversify into new markets, modernize operations and strengthen their supply chains. It also includes liquidity assistance to help businesses manage operating pressures and retain employees.

See back page for full details on RTRI and how to apply.

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

FINANCING AND ADVISORY SUPPORT

BDC is offering financing and business support for Canadian companies navigating tariff-related uncertainty, including businesses that need capital to adapt, invest in productivity, diversify and remain competitive.

Canada Strong Diversification Fund (CSDF)

LARGER-SCALE INVESTMENTS

The Canada Strong Diversification Fund supports larger-scale investments that help Canadian businesses diversify markets, strengthen domestic capacity and supply chains, and become more resilient to trade disruptions.

Support for Workers and Employers

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING MEASURES

Service Canada has measures in place, including EI Work-Sharing, employee retention and retraining supports, to help businesses manage workforce pressures resulting from tariffs and trade disruptions.

Contact Service Canada for program details.

A more competitive, resilient and diversified Canadian economy benefits everyone - including businesses right here in Burlington.

Burlington businesses can also access valuable resources through the City of Burlington and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce. Both offer information, tools and connections to help local businesses navigate tariffs, economic uncertainty and changing trade conditions. Explore their resources to find additional guidance and support for your business.

Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Discover Burlington

IS YOUR BURLINGTON BUSINESS BEING AFFECTED BY TARIFFS?

You don't have to navigate it alone.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BURLINGTON BUSINESSES

In light of the escalating trade dispute with the United States, the Mayor has put together a Task Force that brings together the City of Burlington, local business leaders and government partners to respond to the impacts of U.S. tariffs on our community.

The Task Force gives Burlington businesses a direct voice at the table — helping us understand the pressures they are facing, identify gaps in support and coordinate our response across all levels of government. If you would like to join, please reach out to the mayor's office directly.





NOT SURE WHICH PROGRAM APPLIES TO YOU?

Download the Canada Business App

The Canada Business App makes it easier to find and navigate government programs and services for your business. Discover supports tailored to your needs and receive notifications about new programs, important updates and upcoming deadlines.

CONTACT MY OFFICES

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

209-777 Guelph Line
Burlington, ON L7R 3N2

905-639-5757
905-639-6031

OTTAWA OFFICE

Justice Building, Room 606
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

613-995-0881
613-995-1091

Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI)

Helping southern Ontario businesses and organizations respond to tariff pressures

What is RTRI?

A national $3.45-billion initiative to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) impacted by tariffs adapt, diversify and build resilience.

In southern Ontario, FedDev Ontario is delivering targeted supports to help SMEs

- **Boost** productivity & improve efficiency
- **Expand** export markets
- **Strengthen** supply chains
- **Grow** trade within Canada
- **Manage** cash flow challenges

Who Can Apply & How?

You may qualify if you are:

- An SME
- An Indigenous-led enterprise
- A not-for-profit supporting SMEs

To Apply:

- Contact FedDev Ontario at 1-866-593-5505 or info@feddevontario.gc.ca
- Apply today

Funding Available

1. Liquidity assistance
   - Up to $2 million in non-repayable funding
   - Up to 50% of eligible costs
   - Funding for up to 12 months, ending no later than March 31, 2028
2. Pivot Projects
   - Up to $1 million in non-repayable funding
   - Up to 50% of eligible costs

   OR
   - Repayable funding over $1 million may be available for larger-scale transformative projects
   - Up to 75% of eligible costs for repayable funding
   - Projects must be completed no later than March 31, 2029

Eligible Activities

Projects that:

- Invest in digitization, automation, and technology
- Expand into new markets
- Strengthen domestic and global supply chains
- Reshore production, R&D, and talent
- Address liquidity pressures due to tariff impacts

RTRI works alongside:

Large Enterprise Tariff Loan (LETL)

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Pivot to Grow program

Canada Strong Diversification Fund

Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers

Information current as of August 31, 2026.

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
Agence fédérale de développement économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario
Canada