

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

## Ontario's Prosperity, Canada's Progress: A Competitive Business & Trade Environment

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

Congratulations on your election victory and your mandate to take swift, bold action to strengthen Canada's economic future. Your election comes at a pivotal moment for Canada, one defined by formidable threats but rich with opportunities. As the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) outlined in its [four-point plan](#) ahead of the election, a strong national economy depends on policies that foster business competitiveness, investment and trade. Chief among these are steps that provincial and territorial governments across Canada must take to address barriers to internal trade and labour mobility.

To that end, we are encouraged by your commitment to build "one Canadian economy," including tabling enabling legislation, removing all federal exceptions under the *Canada Free Trade Agreement*, and achieving mutual credential recognition among willing provinces and territories. We also commend your efforts to gather the perspectives of business and industry as you forge a path forward.

In support, we write today on behalf of the [Ontario Business and Trade Leadership Coalition](#) (OBTLC), convened by the OCC in January to present a united voice from Ontario's trade-focused sectors in light of U.S. tariff threats. The industries we represent are both at risk from economic and policy shifts, and strategic to Canada's global competitiveness.

In response to the request for information from the Privy Council's Office, the following reflects federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility for our members:

- **Advancing Credential Recognition and Labour Mobility:** Federal, provincial and territorial chambers of commerce have been [vocal](#) in calling for accelerated credential recognition for internationally trained professionals, including engineers, physicians, nurses, paramedics, and laboratory technologists. Faster assessment and integration of these professionals will help alleviate staffing shortages in key sectors. Standardised credential recognition should better align with the federal immigration system, ensuring that Canada attracts and retains skilled talent in sectors critical to the country's long-term economic and workforce needs.
- **Supporting the Efficient Movement of Goods Across Canada:** Efficient transportation systems are essential to our economy, driving growth and internal resilience. Building off recent steps to [mutually recognize regulatory requirements](#) in the trucking sector, Transport

Canada should work with the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety to evaluate opportunities for increased harmonization. This should include reviewing trailer configurations, including legal weights and dimensions, and working with provinces and territories to align vehicle equipment registration requirements, permit durations, and the enforcement of commercial vehicle safety standards. To unlock the potential of “one Canadian economy,” we urge your government to work with municipal, territorial and provincial governments to develop additional rail capacity and transportation infrastructure to better connect underserved regions, including rural, remote, and Indigenous communities across Ontario and Canada.

- **Harmonizing Federal and Provincial Procurement Practices:** Procurement modernization provides governments across Canada with opportunity to build more resilient supply chains and create greater social and economic value for Canadians. As work unfolds to remove barriers to interprovincial trade, governments should align public procurement policies and procedures across jurisdictions wherever possible. In the short term, this should include leveraging trade agreement flexibilities and working with provinces and territories to improve alignment between their procurement strategies and federal efforts to bolster domestic industries affected by global trade volatility.

It's time for Canada to trade complacency for competitiveness - and to lead with courage. On behalf of our members, we thank you for your leadership and remain committed to working collaboratively with your government and newly appointed cabinet to advance internal trade and drive inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch

*President & CEO*

*Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

Cc.

James Scongack, Chief Operating Officer & EVP Operational Services, Bruce Power & Co-Chair,  
Ontario Business and Trade Leadership Coalition

Chris Conway, Chief Executive Officer, Food and Beverage Ontario & Co-Chair, Ontario Business  
and Trade Leadership Coalition

Jeannine Ritchot, Assistant Deputy Minister for Multilateral Relations, Intergovernmental Affairs,  
Privy Council Office