



**SAULT STE. MARIE
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Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce statement on the removal of tariffs on steel and aluminum

May 23, 2019 - The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce commends the Government of Canada for its part in successfully negotiating the removal of U.S. tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum.

The Chamber also commends our local Member of Parliament, Terry Sheehan, for the tireless effort that he has put forth during the past year. As co-chair of the All Party Steel Caucus, Terry has been a strong advocate for our local steel industry at both the national level and internationally.

The Chamber thanks the many local businesses and industries directly involved in steel manufacturing who joined in the effort to have these tariffs removed, sharing resources, information, and a common voice.

We also commend MPP Ross Romano, Mayor Christian Provenzano and government officials and staff who worked together with Canadian and U.S. officials to ensure that our local steel industry, and the many local jobs that it creates, remain secure. We also recognize the resilience and hard work of the steel workers, union representatives and their counterparts in the U.S. to make this deal happen.

With tariffs now lifted by both Canada and the United States, the Chamber understands that we cannot put industry challenges behind us. The importance of the Canada's steel industry is now more apparent than ever to Canadians and to Canadian businesses, coast-to-coast. It is time to continue to advocate for ongoing support of the Canadian steel industry and the jobs and technologies that it creates.

In an effort to elevate the importance of Canada's steel industry, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce initiated discussions with its Chamber network, provincially and federally, in 2016. We will continue to focus attention on Canadian steel on behalf of our local steel industry and our member businesses that rely on it:

- The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce travelled to Ottawa twice in 2017, along with the Chambers from Hamilton and Windsor-Essex and several of Canada's largest steel producers, appearing before the Standing Committee on International Trade and before the All-Party Parliamentary Steel Caucus. Together, we made a strong argument for exactly how important the steel industry is to both our community and to the national economy.
- In September 2017, a full seven months prior to the U.S. administration of tariffs on steel and aluminum, a delegation from the SSMCOC attended the 2017 Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM in Fredericton, NB. They brought forward a policy resolution asserting that the U.S. review of the Trade Expansion Act specific to steel had the potential to have a crippling effect on Canada's steel industry and offering a number of recommendations intended to minimize the impact of protectionist actions by our U.S. trading partner.
- When the news of U.S. imposed tariffs broke in March, 2018, The SSMCOC called on the Prime Minister to get directly involved in the crisis. Shortly there-after, the SSMCOC had joined with its counterparts in Hamilton and Windsor-Essex Regional to issue an open letter to the Prime Minister with 8 recommendations aimed at aiding Canada's steel industry and saving related jobs.
- On March 14th, 2018, the Chamber was invited to be at the table, when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in the Sault to discuss concerns around steel tariffs.

Earlier this month, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce attended the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in Muskoka Ontario. The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber brought with it a policy resolution calling on the Ontario government to focus public policy and investment efforts towards supporting this important industry, clusters and the innovation it creates. This SSMCOC policy resolution on steel, and the recommended actions contained within, now become key priorities identified by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, to be acted on at the provincial level and at Queen's Park.