

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

From: East Hants & Districts Chamber of Commerce <easthantsdist@ns.aliantzinc.ca>
Sent: March 12, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan
Subject: Business Support Programs in Response to Tariffs

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Update from Minister of Small Business Office

Dear EHCC members and local businesses,

The following is an update from the office of Minister Valdez on the government's ongoing efforts to support Canadian businesses regarding the unjustified trade war by the United States. Below, you'll find key initiatives and developments from the past month that may be of interest to you and your business.

Canada's Next Prime Minister – Mark Carney

Mark Carney has been elected leader of the Liberal Party with 86% of the vote.

Supporting Businesses Impacted by Unjustified American Tariffs

In response to the recent unjustified tariffs imposed by the United States, the government has introduced a comprehensive [support package of \\$6.5 billion](#) to assist

Canadian businesses impacted by these tariffs. The support includes:

- **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC):** Providing \$500 million in favorably priced loans to businesses impacted by tariffs. These loans are designed to reduce borrowing costs and offer flexible repayment terms.
- **Export Development Canada (EDC):** Launching a \$5 billion Trade Impact Program to help exporters access new markets and manage challenges arising from the tariffs, such as losses from non-payment and currency fluctuations.
- **Farm Credit Canada (FCC):** Allocating \$1 billion in new financing to support the agriculture and food industry, addressing cash flow challenges and helping businesses adjust to the new operating environment.

These measures aim to protect jobs, keep businesses operational, and stabilize Canada's economy during this period of economic uncertainty.

Breaking Down Interprovincial Trade Barriers

The government has been working with provincial and territorial partners to make significant strides in [reducing interprovincial trade barriers](#). Eliminating barriers to internal trade will reduce business costs, increase productivity, and potentially add up to \$200 billion to the Canadian economy.

- **Alcohol Trade:** Almost all provinces have agreed to break down interprovincial trade barriers on alcohol, facilitating easier access to a variety of products across Canada.
- **Professional Certification Recognition:** Efforts are underway to ensure that certified professionals are recognized nationwide, regardless of where they

obtained their credentials. This initiative aims to enhance labor mobility and address skill shortages across provinces and territories.

- **Federal Reduction of Trade Exceptions:** The Government of Canada has announced the removal of 20 additional federal exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), reducing the total from 39 to 19.

Celebrating International Women's Day

Minister Valdez marked International Women's Day by sharing that the federal government's [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy has supported over 400,000 women entrepreneurs](#) start and grow their business across Canada.

Extending Early Learning and Childcare Support

Last week, we announced that we have reached agreements with Ontario and most other provinces to [extend our \\$10-a-day Early Learning and Child Care Program to 2031](#). This includes a \$16.77 billion investment into Ontario families to help them access affordable childcare. This means more parents across the country can choose to join the labour force.

Updates for our Filipino Community

We are excited to share developments that strengthen the ties between Canada and the Philippines:

- **Home Caregiver Immigration Pilot:** Ministers Valdez, Miller, and Saks recently announced updates to the Home Caregiver Immigration Pilot. This program provides caregivers with the opportunity for permanent residency upon arrival in Canada, allowing them to work with reliable employers and ensuring clear access to permanent residence status. The program is designed to attract skilled

workers, including many Filipino caregivers, making it easier for them to settle and contribute to our communities. Applicants will need to meet specific criteria, such as language proficiency, relevant work experience, and a full-time home care job offer. More details can be found at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/caregivers/home-care-worker-immigration-pilots.html>

- **Defense Cooperation Agreement:** Canada and the Philippines have concluded negotiations on a [Status of Visiting Forces Agreement](#) (SOVFA), marking a significant milestone in our bilateral defense relationship. This agreement will enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability between our forces, and contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Please share any concerns or questions with us regarding the information and we will pass along to Minister Valdez's office.

We invite you to attend the Breakfast with MP Kody Blois tomorrow, March 13 at 8am at the East Hants SportsPlex. [Register here >>](#)

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