



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Horwath launches Head of Lake Ontario Plan to protect Hamilton workers, businesses and families

Seven-point plan responds to ongoing U.S. tariff and trade uncertainty with immediate municipal action

HAMILTON, ON — Mayor Andrea Horwath today announced the **Head of Lake Ontario Plan**, a seven-point municipal response to protect Hamilton workers, businesses and families, strengthen the local economy and help Hamilton weather the ongoing U.S. trade war.

“I can’t control what Donald Trump does. But I can control how Hamilton responds,” said Horwath. “The Head of Lake Ontario Plan is about using every tool we have to protect Hamilton jobs, businesses and families.”

The **Head of Lake Ontario Plan** includes:

1. Property Tax Relief

Commitment to holding property tax increases below inflation, providing greater certainty for families already facing rising costs and economic pressure.

2. Cut the Red Tape

Creating a Local Business Support Officer at City Hall — a single point of contact to help businesses quickly navigate available municipal, provincial and federal supports. **One contact. Every available support.**



3. Emergency Tax and Fee Deferrals

Developing emergency deferral options for City taxes and fees so a City bill is never the reason a struggling business closes its doors or a family falls behind.

4. Unite Hamilton — One Table, One Fight

Bringing together business, labour, manufacturers and economic leaders to identify emerging challenges, coordinate action and protect Hamilton jobs.

5. Hamilton First — Buy Local, Buy Canadian

Strengthening Hamilton's local procurement approach to ensure public dollars support Hamilton and Canadian workers and jobs — including buying Hamilton steel, products, services and supplies wherever possible.

6. Relentless Advocacy

Continuing pressure on Ottawa and Queen's Park for immediate relief for workers and businesses, First Port of Entry status for the Port of Hamilton, and Hamilton's fair share of federal counter-tariff revenues.

7. Build Hamilton

Putting Hamilton's historic \$572-million infrastructure investment to work — building housing, creating good jobs and opportunities for skilled trades and apprentices, and keeping Hamilton moving.

"Every conversation we have about tariffs needs to be a conversation about people," said Horwath. "The impact of trade uncertainty doesn't end at the factory gate. It follows workers home to the kitchen table."

Hamilton has already taken action in response to U.S. tariff threats, including changing municipal procurement to prioritize Canadian suppliers and support local purchasing, convening tariff and trade roundtables with affected sectors, and taking Hamilton's case directly to Washington.



The Head of Lake Ontario Plan builds on that work with seven practical actions Hamilton can take now to protect local jobs, support businesses and provide greater stability for the people who call this city home.

“I know that behind every shift cut, every order cancelled and every investment put on hold, there is a person wondering what comes next,” said Horwath. “A worker wondering if their job is safe. A small business owner wondering how long they can hold on. A family wondering what they’ll have to give up next if things get worse.”

“Tariffs are beyond our control. But the future of Hamilton is for us to decide, protect and build.”

“And when the uncertainty passes — and it will — Hamilton will still be building, making, growing and looking forward.”

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