



#StandUpForSteel

Trump's Steel Tariffs Are an Attack on Hamilton Workers. Ottawa Must Act Now

By Matthew Green, NDP MP Hamilton Centre



National Steel Car USW Picket Line with CLC and NDP

Once again, Hamilton's steelworkers are being used as bargaining chips in a political game they did not sign up to play. On February 10, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 25 percent tariff on all steel and aluminum imports, including from Canada. This reckless move is not about fair trade. It is about a desperate administration using workers as pawns to score political points. Just like before, it is Hamilton's steelworkers who are caught in the crossfire.

The Stakes for Hamilton's Steel Industry

We have been here before. The steel and aluminum tariffs Trump imposed on Canada in 2018 caused massive uncertainty in our industry. Workers at Stelco and ArcelorMittal Dofasco were left wondering whether their jobs would be next. Thousands of good-paying union jobs in Hamilton

depend on steel exports to the United States. Any disruption to that supply chain is an immediate threat not just to steelworkers but to the entire economy of this city.

We are already seeing the fallout. U.S. steel corporations such as Cleveland-Cliffs and Nucor have seen their stock prices surge, while European steelmakers such as Thyssenkrupp and Salzgitter have taken a hit. Markets are shifting, and if Canada does not respond with a strong and immediate plan, Hamilton workers will be left paying the price for American shareholders.

The Liberal Government's Weak Response

Ottawa is scrambling to contain the damage, but a wait-and-see approach will not cut it. A temporary reprieve or backroom deal will not secure the future of Hamilton's steel industry. This government needs to act now to protect jobs before it is too late. That means:

- Expanding the Work-Share program so employers reduce hours instead of cutting jobs.
- Enhancing EI benefits so affected workers do not end up without support.
- Implementing a Wage Subsidy 2.0 to help stabilize our industries.
- Keeping retaliatory tariffs on the table because if Trump is prepared to escalate this, Canada cannot afford to back down.

Most importantly, Ottawa needs to commit to a real industrial strategy that prioritizes Canadian manufacturing. Public infrastructure projects must require the use of Canadian steel, aluminum, and critical minerals. Canada can no longer rely on foreign governments to dictate the future of our industries. Reactionary politics that leave workers scrambling to pick up the pieces must end.

Steelworkers Are Ready to Fight. Is Ottawa?

Hamilton has been the backbone of Canada's steel industry for generations. This city has survived foreign takeovers, corporate restructuring, and past trade wars because steelworkers do not back down from a fight. We stood up to Trump's tariffs before, and we are ready to do it again. However, we need a federal government that is willing to fight with us, not one that sits on the sidelines while jobs hang in the balance.

The NDP stands with the United Steelworkers in Hamilton and across Canada. We know that when workers stand together, we win. The only question now is whether Ottawa will stand with us.

In Solidarity. Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.