

Supporting Niagara's Business Community and Advocating for Economic Resilience Measures

WHEREAS Niagara is a critical hub for trade between the United States and Canada with our economy benefitting greatly from an historically positive trade relationship with the United States;

WHEREAS Niagara's business community has repeatedly shown its strength and resiliency navigating extreme economic uncertainty;

WHEREAS the U.S. market accounts for 72 per cent of total exports from Niagara businesses, with export trade directly supporting over 30,000 jobs in Niagara;

WHEREAS in 2023, 532 Niagara businesses exported \$5.9 billion in goods to the United States; and

WHEREAS Niagara's identity as a border community places the region at particular economic risk during periods of trade uncertainty.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **AFFIRMS** its strong support for the local Niagara businesses that rely on positive trade relationships with the United States to contribute to our local economy;
2. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to work alongside staff to undertake advocacy efforts calling on the Federal and Provincial governments to enhance the economic strength and resiliency of Niagara and other communities by:
 - a) Reducing barriers to interprovincial trade, enhancing internal trade and economic flow within Canada;
 - b) Encouraging the formation of local trade alliances to strengthen regional supply chains and ensure greater self-reliance;
 - c) Supporting export market diversification by promoting the intensification of foreign market development and opportunities in places such as the United Kingdom and European Union;
 - d) Increasing investment to support economic resiliency, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotion, workforce development support and expedited development of strategic growth sectors;

- e) Reinforcing the necessity of a strong and integrated Canada-U.S. trade relationship, emphasizing mutual benefits; and
 - f) Exploring the need for a border community economic alliance and trade strategy for the benefits of border communities across Canada;
3. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to Niagara's Area Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, Niagara's Chambers of Commerce and BIAs and the Niagara Industrial Association.