

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

December 1, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Dear Premier Ford:

I am writing to you regarding significant layoffs announced today by Algoma Steel. In its statement about the layoffs, the company indicated that the 50% tariff on Canadian steel imposed by the U.S. federal administration in June “fundamentally altered the competitive landscape and sharply limited our ability to access the U.S. market” and contributed to commencing the transition to Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steelmaking a year ahead of the previously anticipated date. Given the significant role the Government of Ontario played in supporting this transition, there is a clear need to move quickly to deliver the assistance required to stabilize the local economy and support the workers directly affected.

These layoffs demonstrate the profound and escalating threat that the ongoing tariff situation poses to the Canadian steel industry and to Sault Ste. Marie. With steel tariffs in place for a prolonged period – far beyond what any fair-trading relationship should tolerate – I have urged the Government of Canada to do what is necessary to secure an overdue resolution to this tariff dispute. The job losses that have arisen from the economic fallout underscores the need for strong, targeted government assistance to protect workers and help sustain the broader community through strategic economic action that preserves local jobs and keeps our regional economy resilient in the face of ongoing uncertainty.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie is committed to working with the Government of Ontario to move forward projects that strengthen the national interest and deliver the substantial economic activity Canada urgently requires. First, and most immediately achievable, relocating additional Ontario Lottery and Gaming jobs from Toronto to Sault Ste. Marie represents a clear and practical opportunity to deliver meaningful economic impact in a region that urgently needs it, while reinforcing OLG’s long-standing commitments to its headquarters Sault Ste. Marie. Second, the City and the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority announced a new partnership in the fall to develop a port in Sault Ste. Marie. We are near conclusion of a business case and look forward to presenting it to your government. The port would establish a Sault-to-South corridor that serves as a logistics and processing gateway; integrating marine, rail, and highway infrastructure to support full-season, multimodal connectivity. It represents a meaningful opportunity to strengthen Canada’s internal trade and export networks at a time when the importance of doing so is paramount.

This situation requires immediate, decisive action. Sault Ste. Marie needs the Government of Ontario to move quickly, and I will make myself available at any time to speak with yourself or any representatives from your government about this matter.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW M. SHOEMAKER
Mayor, Sault Ste. Marie