



December 1, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister Carney:

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 steelmaking a year ahead of the previously anticipated date. Given the significant role the Government of Canada played in supporting this transition and your lead role in negotiating a tariff resolution with the United States, there is a clear need to move quickly to resolve the tariff issue and 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, the economic impact makes clear that the Government of Canada must secure an overdue resolution to this tariff dispute and provide support for affected workers in Sault Ste. Marie. I recognize the challenging nature of the current political dynamic with our largest trading partner, but the economic fallout locally underscores the need for strong, targeted 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 Canada to move forward projects that strengthen the national interest and deliver the substantial economic activity Canada urgently requires. First, 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 the 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. Second, any economic benefit tied to defence procurement must begin to flow now. The commitment to using Canadian steel in defence projects is admirable, but orders cannot wait – our steel industry faces a very real risk of permanent capacity loss.

This situation requires immediate, decisive action. Sault Ste. Marie needs the Government of Canada 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