

June 30, 2025

The Right Honourable Paul Carney

Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

SENT BY EMAIL: PM@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

SENT BY EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford,

On behalf of the **Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)** and the 110 municipalities we represent across Northeastern Ontario, I write to express our deep concern with the recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce, issued on April 4, 2025, which proposes a preliminary combined countervailing and anti-dumping duty rate of **34.45% on Canadian softwood lumber**—more than double the current rate.

This significant escalation in tariffs, expected to take effect in July, poses a direct and immediate threat to the economic well-being of communities across Northeastern Ontario. Our region's forest sector is a foundational pillar of the local economy—supporting thousands of direct and indirect jobs and underpinning many municipal tax bases. Communities such as Timmins, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Temiskaming Shores, and many others have built their resilience and growth around this industry.

Since the expiration of the last Softwood Lumber Agreement in 2016, Canadian producers have faced unfair and punitive duties. These trade actions have now cost the industry **over \$10 billion CAD**, undermining confidence, investment, and the future viability of a sector critical to both our regional and national economies. The increased rate threatens to exacerbate these impacts and further destabilize the forest industry at a time when we can least afford it.

Compounding this issue is the looming potential for additional tariffs on forest products stemming from the U.S. Section 232 national security review, which could deepen the uncertainty and further harm communities throughout Northern Ontario.

We urge both the federal and provincial governments to respond decisively by:

- Making the resolution of the softwood lumber dispute a **top priority** in ongoing bilateral trade discussions with the United States.

- Working directly with forest-sector stakeholders and municipalities to **develop and implement support measures** that protect workers, communities, and local economies.
- **Publicly acknowledge the urgency of this issue for rural and northern Ontario, and commit** to concrete, coordinated actions.

The forest sector in Northern Ontario is vital to our economic survival and to national priorities such as addressing housing needs, advancing clean energy, and promoting sustainable development. However, our region cannot continue to bear the brunt of unfair trade measures without meaningful government action.

FONOM is committed to working alongside all levels of government and our industry partners to protect jobs, investment, and long-term prosperity in our communities.

Sincerely,



Danny Whalen
President

cc'd Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca
Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca
Eric.Melillo@parl.gc.ca
Dominic.LebLANc@parl.gc.ca
Kevin.Holland@pc.ola.org
Greg.Rckford@pc.ola.org
charla@tbchamber.ca
idunn@ofia.com
dwhalen@temiskamingshores.ca
fonom.info@gmail.com
amopresident@amo.on.ca
clowry@mississippimills.ca
admin@noma.on.ca