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NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

## Media Release

### Advocacy Day Message in Washington D.C.: “Trump Does Not Need A Hatchet.... He Need’s A Scalpel”

Toronto, March 9, 2025, This past week, as the appointed Delegate for Mayor Chow and the City of Toronto, I joined Canadian and American mayors from across Ontario, Quebec, and many American districts in Washington, D.C., as part of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative’s “Advocacy Days” ([www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)). – There not just to champion the protection of our precious natural resources and the largest watershed in the world, but to strongly push back against tariffs which threaten jobs, businesses, and the cost of living on both sides of our shared border.

In my meetings with U.S. Mayors, Senators, and Congressional leaders, **both Democrat and Republican**, I made it noticeably clear:

- These tariffs threaten jobs and disrupt industries which rely on our deeply integrated supply chains – putting at risk eight million American jobs which depend on trade with Canada.
- They weaken the \$6 trillion Great Lakes’ economy, which drives 50% of all U.S.-Canada trade.
- They put decades of cross-border cooperation at risk – at a time when we should be strengthening economic ties, not undermining them.

“The Great Lakes region is an economic powerhouse – protectionist policies set us back.” stated Councillor Ainslie. He continued “We must work together to preserve and grow our economic partnership. Now is the time to act.”

- Toronto is estimated to drive \$123B in trade with the United States considering it contributes to 25% of Ontario GDP, workforce, and businesses.
- The Toronto region is responsible for 20% of Canada’s economy and 53% of Ontario’s. As a financial business hub, Toronto drives U.S.-Ontario trade, with Ontario merchandise exports to the U.S. rising 25% from \$202B to \$252B between 2019 and 2023.
- The U.S. is Canada’s largest trading partner. A 25% blanket tariff on all U.S. imports will heavily impact Canada, Ontario, and Toronto

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