

## ETFO responds to American tariffs

**For Immediate Release – April 9, 2025**

TORONTO, ON - The following is a statement from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) on tariffs imposed by the U.S. government on Canadian products:

“The imposition of American tariffs is having far-reaching consequences for working families, students, and ETFO members. These measures, which violate the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, are beginning to impact key sectors of the Canadian economy, deepening the affordability crisis, creating financial uncertainty, and exacerbating food insecurity. As a result, many families are experiencing rising financial instability due to job losses and growing economic challenges.

Public education will not be immune to the ripple effects of this economic downturn. As government revenues come under pressure, there is an increased risk that funding for vital publicly funded services and institutions, including public education, will be scaled back. At the same time, Ontario families, many of whom are already struggling, will face even greater financial strain. For students, this can mean heightened barriers to learning and well-being, including hunger and stress, which compromise their ability to learn and thrive.

During times of economic hardship, public education must remain a top funding priority. Supporting our schools is both a compassionate and forward-looking choice. A strong, well-funded public education system provides stability for students and families, while helping to build a more resilient economy. By investing in public education, we give students the tools they need to grow, succeed, and contribute to our collective recovery and prosperity.

ETFO stands in solidarity with Canadian families and workers impacted by U.S. trade policies. We urge the government to take immediate action to mitigate the impact of these tariffs by:

- providing direct support to affected workers and communities;
- expanding and strengthening employment insurance (EI), ensuring EI benefits are more accessible and adequate for all workers;
- protecting and strengthening public services; and
- ensuring investment in public education is made a priority.”

[ETFO](#) represents approximately 83,000 members, including public elementary teachers, occasional teachers, designated early childhood educators, education support personnel, and professional support personnel. Visit [BuildingBetterSchools.ca](https://www.buildingbetterschools.ca).

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**ETFO Media Relations:** Carla Pereira | 416-962-3836 ext. 2332 | [cpereira@etfo.org](mailto:cpereira@etfo.org)