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Releases

Tariff response must focus on supporting workers and communities, not just corporate balance sheets: BCFED

BCFED President Sussanne Skidmore today released the following statement:

As we all grapple with the news that our economy is once again the target of Donald Trump's brutal, unjustified tariff assault, there's one question that should guide our tariff response:

What does this mean for working people here in BC?

Because the impacts are going to land on working people, and they'll land hard.

They'll land in forestry and mining towns wondering what the next few months will bring, in ports and manufacturing, in construction and transportation, in small businesses and in local communities that depend on workers having good, steady jobs.

When uncertainty hits one part of our economy, it never stays there. It moves through communities, workplaces and household budgets.

BC workers have already been carrying a lot: affordability pressures, economic uncertainty and the ongoing chaos already coming from Donald Trump’s tariff agenda.

So our response can’t just be about protecting corporate balance sheets. It has to be about protecting people. Workers are the engine of BC's economy, and they have to be governments' first priority.

That means defending good jobs, investing in BC, strengthening Canadian industries and making sure workers have the supports they need when their jobs or communities are under pressure.

We need a plan for the economy that is built with workers, not handed down to them after the decisions are made. One that recognizes our values of justice, sustainability and Reconciliation as strengths, and understands that our economy only succeeds if we all succeed.

Because a strong BC economy is one where working people and their families are able to thrive. That has to be the measure of whatever comes next.