

BCTGM Disappointed by President Trump's Misguided Tariffs on Canada



March 6, 2025

BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton issued the following response to President Donald Trump's decision to apply tariffs on Canada:

The BCTGM International Union believes that the Trump Administration's decision to apply a 25% tariff on goods entering the United States from Canada is unnecessary, misguided and potentially devastating for both Canadian and American workers, including thousands of BCTGM members.

If the President is truly committed to bolstering manufacturing in the United States, he would be better served turning the Administration's attention to Mexico where multinational companies are exploiting low wages and lax safety and environmental regulations.

Since the passage of NAFTA, multinational employers in the food processing industry have consistently sent BCTGM-represented jobs in the U.S. and Canada to Mexico to take advantage of this disparity in labor standards, and the absence of a legitimate labor movement.

The BCTGM lost thousands of members when Nabisco/Mondelēz closed plants in the U.S. and Canada and shipped those jobs to a newly built facility in Salinas, Mexico.

Kellogg products continue to come into the United States from Mexico. Kellogg's recently announced it would be shutting down one of the largest cereal facilities in North America in Omaha, Neb. and downsizing its facility in Memphis, Tenn. Much of that production will be sent to Mexico.

The candy industry has sent thousands of jobs to Mexico, including many BCTGM jobs. Companies like Hershey, Wrigley, Mars, Tootsie Roll and Ferrero all have significant operations in Mexico. The problem in this trading relationship is not Canada.

The implementation of these tariffs threatens an historic, long-lasting and productive relationship between our two countries. It also threatens the livelihoods of hardworking BCTGM members on both sides of the border.

The BCTGM calls on the President to end the tariffs on Canada and focus on the real problem: multinational companies exploiting conditions in Mexico at the expense of America's manufacturing sector.

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