

May 2, 2025

To all Auto and IPS Locals and Delegates

Greetings

**RE: General Motors' Announcement**

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As many of you have heard, General Motors announced plans today to cut its third shift of truck production at Oshawa Assembly. Although specific timeline details are being worked out, this shift reduction is expected to take place later this year, in November.

This decision is largely to do with U.S.-imposed tariffs on Canadian vehicles. All Canadian vehicles exported to the U.S. face a 25% tariff on the value of their non-U.S. content. This is a damaging, unjust policy enacted by the Trump Administration precisely to hurt Canadian auto production.

This move will directly impact 700 Unifor members of Local 222 at the Oshawa plant, in addition to job impacts affecting thousands of workers at numerous Unifor-represented and other supplier parts facilities and support service units.

This news is deeply alarming – though, unfortunately, not surprising

Our Councils has been warning for months about auto sector job losses due to tariffs. We've seen fellow workers in other industries, already impacted in different ways. Our National Union, led by our National President Lana Payne, has been ringing the alarm with government and industry officials as well as the public that job loss, in Canada, is a likely outcome and that governments, everywhere, needed to act fast. We cannot stand by and watch good paying jobs get uprooted.

Earlier today, the National Union issued a strong statement on the GM announcement, which you can read [here](#).

It says that conversations are taking place between the National Union, Unifor Local 222 and the company. Under the terms of the Unifor-GM collective agreement, the company must provide at least 6 months' notice before any layoff can be implemented, and to engage with the union to consider all options to mitigate layoffs. It's the union's position that this decision violates the collective agreement and must be reversed.

In the meantime, governments must step up and defend autoworkers.

We welcomed promises in both federal and provincial election campaigns to support autoworkers and the industry. But now it's time to put those words into action.

Unifor is calling on governments to immediately remove GM's tariff-exempt status on vehicles imported from the United States and sold in Canada.

The union is also urging Prime Minister Carney to call an emergency meeting with the heads of all major automakers to publicly reaffirm their commitments to Canadian investment and production.

General Motors has benefitted greatly from the Canadian economy. They are the top-selling automaker in the country and sold nearly 300,000 vehicles in Canada last year, most of those vehicles having been imported from the U.S.

Our fundamental principle as a union is 'build where you sell'. And GM, right now, builds far less than they sell in Canada. Today's announced plan, if executed, means they'll build even less.

Earlier this year our Councils issued a [joint statement](#), condemning U.S. tariffs on Canada. It also said that we would defend Canadian jobs, by whatever means necessary. We stand by this commitment.

In the coming days we will convene another joint meeting of the Auto and IPS Councils, to update delegates on the GM situation, and the U.S. tariff attack more broadly. Please stay tuned for more information.

Right now, our thoughts are with our members – those who are staring down this period of uncertainty and wondering what it means for them and their family.

Rest assured we are in this fight together – in solidarity.

John D'Agnolo  
Chair, Unifor Auto Council

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cc: Lana Payne, Len Poirier, Samia Hashi, Angelo DiCaro, Paul Shiels, Shane Wark, IPS Staff Representatives, Kathleen O'Keefe