BIABC Seeks Update on provincial government Tariff Response

For immediate release
July 22, 2025

Vancouver, BC – The Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIABC), which represents 55,000 small and medium-sized businesses in more than 80 business districts, is expressing concern about the lack of communication from the provincial government regarding its response to the ongoing threat of US tariffs.

Nearly one month ago, BIABC sent a formal letter to Minister Ravi Kahlon—Chair of the Cabinet Committee leading the province's "whole-of-government" response—seeking an update on the province's strategy. The letter also reiterated recommendations BIABC first submitted in February, which included enhancing the Buy BC program and local sourcing to strengthen the domestic market; taking tangible steps to remove interprovincial trade barriers; and helping small businesses grow by improving access to capital and markets.

To date, there has been no response.

"Our members are on the frontlines of economic disruption," said Jeremy Heighton, Executive Director of BIABC. "We've provided clear, actionable recommendations and remain eager to be part of the solution. But right now, there's a lack of engagement."

In its renewed call for action, BIABC has formally requested:

1. A public update on the Cabinet Committee's mandate, timeline, and stakeholder representation.
2. Specific actions the province has taken—or plans to take—to address the immediate impacts of tariffs on BC businesses.
3. Clarification on provincial efforts to advance interprovincial trade and strengthen local procurement.
4. Opportunities for BIABC to participate in government consultations and discussions.
5. Removal of the Bill 7 sunset clause to provide long-term certainty for businesses investing in trade beyond BC's borders.

"We welcome the Premier's public commitment to "fight like hell" for British Columbians and share government's desire for long-term economic strength," continued Heighton.

BIABC remains ready contribute solutions and collaborate in the spirit of constructive partnership."

About BIABC:

The Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC) is the provincial champion of strong, vibrant, and successful downtowns, main streets, and commercial districts throughout our province. Members represent more than 80 business districts that employ hundreds of thousands of retail, service, and office employees within defined business districts.

-30-

For any media enquiries, please contact:
Denver Sparks-Guest
dsparksguest@lbmg.ca
778-995-1555