

**Speaking Notes - Premier Ranj Pillai**  
**Tariff response – Phase 2**  
**3 April 2025**

- Good afternoon.
- Thank you for joining us today on the Traditional Territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as we discuss the unfair, unjust and unamerican tariffs that U.S. President Donald Trump continues to impose on Canada.
- I had hoped to make this announcement in the Yukon Legislative Assembly earlier today, but opposition parties blocked our Ministerial Statement.
- I am grateful that members of the media are able to join me here today, as we make sure that Yukoners can hear directly from their government about our response to Donald Trump's latest attack on Canada.
- Yesterday, we saw the Trump Administration once again throw decades of rules-based international order out the window.
- While Canada may have gotten what some are calling the 'best of a bad deal'...
- ... There was a new tariff on Canadian vehicles that took effect at midnight eastern time.
- And previously-announced tariffs on Canadian goods are still in effect.
- While Canada is exempt from the broad-sweeping reciprocal tariffs that were implemented on many other U.S. trading partners...
- ...the lack of clarity around this announcement – and what it means for businesses and consumers – has caused global markets to tumble.
- It has left Canadians and Yukoners unsure about what it means for them, and uneasy about their futures.

- Tariffs and tariff threats have had – and will continue to have – real life implications for Canadian workers and businesses, especially workers in Ontario’s auto sector, some of whom are already off the job as a result of the latest round of tariffs.
- These tariffs have real impacts for people here in the Yukon.
- They will make life more expensive for Americans and Canadians.
- They will make it more difficult for companies to do business – on both sides of the border.
- And they will have real consequences for the global economy.
- The Government of Yukon supports the Team Canada response to these tariffs.
- This morning, I spoke with Prime Minister Mark Carney and premiers from the other provinces and territories.
- We discussed ways we can support Ontario auto workers and opportunities to diversify international trade.
- Premiers also noted that there has certainly been a change in tone from Donald Trump since Mr. Carney became Prime Minister.
- Since the call between the President and the Prime Minister last month, the comments about Canada becoming the ‘51<sup>st</sup> state’ have stopped. President Trump is no longer referring to our head of state as the ‘Governor of Canada’.
- I know these words from the US President were very hurtful to many Canadians and many Yukoners.
- As Premiers, we must continue to work together, and continue to support the Prime Minister, as it appears our collective efforts – and Mr. Carney’s leadership – is paying off.
- Earlier today, our Prime Minister announced that the Government of Canada will levy a tariff on US-made vehicles that are not CUSMA-compliant, to match what the Trump administration did to the Canadian auto industry.

- Last month, I announced Phase 1 of our response to the Trump tariffs. Today, I will announce the Yukon's latest – Phase 2 – response.
- Effective immediately, we are implementing additional measures that align with our commitment to supporting Canadian businesses.
- The Government of Yukon will:
  - end rebates under the Good Energy Program for Tesla products;
  - review Yukon government Starlink accounts and cancel those that are unessential for business continuity or emergency response; and
  - shift our digital communications away from X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.
- This means that for Yukoners considering purchasing a new or used Tesla vehicle or a Tesla Level 2 charger, these products will no longer be eligible for rebates through the Good Energy Program. This is effective today.
- Our commitment to zero-emission vehicles remains strong, and we will continue to offer incentives for other manufacturers.
- This is one way we can stand in solidarity with Canadian autoworkers.
- On Starlink, first, I want to be clear that I am speaking about Yukon government Starlink accounts only.
- Yukoners should continue to make the choice that makes the most sense for them, at home, and for their businesses.
- Across the territory, the Yukon government has about 90 Starlink contracts, which we use primarily at highway camps, rural medical centres, campgrounds, and emergency response hubs.

- Yukoners may still see YG Starlink networks in use while we review our contracts and evaluate alternative satellite internet service providers.
- In some circumstances, we may have to continue to rely on Starlink, where it is the only option to provide backup in emergency situations or to do essential government business.
- But we will cancel contracts where they are not absolutely necessary for safety or business continuity.
- As we transition away from X, the final posts on YG X accounts will include information about where Yukoners can find the same information.
- We will continue to communicate openly, transparently, and in real time with Yukoners, on Yukon.ca, on Facebook, and on Bluesky.
- These measures build on our initial response, which included:
  - Ending the sale of U.S. alcohol in government-run liquor stores and stopping any new wholesale orders for US liquor.
    - I want to thank the staff at Yukon Liquor Corporation for quickly removing these products from shelves and working with local businesses to find alternative products that will keep customers happy.
  - Our initial response included reviewing government procurement rules to limit government contracting with US-based companies wherever possible. This work continues, but I can share some updates on progress we have made.
    - We are making it easier for Yukon government employees to buy local through our new Government of Yukon Online Marketplace.
    - We recently added local businesses that sell office supplies, and local agriculture producers, including GP Distributing, the Yukon Meat

Company, Little Red Hen Eggs, Hinterland Flour, Cold Snap Chippery, Integraphics, and the Office Supply Centre.

- Another way we already work to prioritize local businesses in procurement is through the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy.
- And we are also reviewing policies and initiatives that will prioritize Yukon and Canadian businesses over American ones in government procurement.
- Work continues to develop a one-million-dollar response package for Yukon companies directly impacted by the Trump tariffs.
  - The funding for this program depends on the budget passing in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- I want to acknowledge the hard work of our local chambers of commerce. We've partnered with them to produce new ads encouraging Yukoners to buy local.
- In Budget 2025-26, we also worked with local chambers, local businesses, and the CFIB to make sure that programs like the Yukon Paid Sick Leave program continued. We are continuing to hold the small business tax rate at zero and have the lowest fuel tax rate in Canada.
- We continue to work with the federal government and provincial and territorial partners on a Team Canada response.
- We are also working with local businesses, local chambers of commerce, local stakeholders, Yukon municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments.
- But Yukoners, we also want to hear from you.
- If you have feedback, concerns, or ideas, I encourage you to reach out to us at tariff dash response at Yukon.ca. I can't promise we will implement all your ideas, but it is important

that we hear from you as we continue to fight for our sovereignty and our economic future.

- Your input will help us better understand the challenges businesses and workers are facing and may help inform our next steps.
- As I have always said – our response to the Trump administration’s tariffs is not an indication of how we feel about our American friends, family, and neighbours.
- Alaskans, in particular, share a close relationship with Yukoners. This relationship has never been limited by international borders. Alaskans and Yukoners have always been each other’s greatest friends and closest allies.
- We want Americans to keep coming here – keep spending money here – keep visiting your friends and family members in the Yukon and in Canada.
- Show your support for Canada by visiting Canada, and by understanding why not as many of us may be in a hurry to come visit you.
- I have testified twice before the Alaska State legislature, in support of a bill brought forward by Republican state representative Chuck Kopp, encouraging Alaska’s government to support Canada.
- I was also pleased to see that last night, a majority of U.S. Senators voted to repeal the Trump administration’s tariffs on Canada. While this bill will likely be stalled in the U.S. House of Representatives, it is an important signal to the Trump administration that support for Canada in the United States is strong.
- In particular, I want to thank Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski for her vote to support Canada.
- I also want to note a National Day of Action on Saturday, April 5, with our neighbours in Skagway hosting an event to protest what the Trump Administration is doing to Canada.

- While I am glad that our Team Canada efforts seem to be paying off, I remain committed to doing whatever it takes to protect Yukon jobs, Yukon businesses, and our Yukon way of life.
- In closing, I want to again ask all Yukoners for their support for local businesses and their support in prioritizing Canadian-made goods over American imports.
- We've witnessed an incredible wave of patriotism across Canada, and here in the Yukon, that spirit is stronger than ever. Last week, Yukoners showed up in full force for a rally in Whitehorse to celebrate all things Canada – a reminder of our pride in being Canadian and our commitment to supporting one another.
- Summer is fast approaching, and I want to encourage anyone making travel plans to consider vacationing closer to home. The Yukon has so much to offer, and Canada has endless places to explore.
- When we support local businesses, we strengthen our economy, support our communities, and help keep our hard-earned dollars here at home.
- Elbows up, Yukon!
- Thank you, and I'm happy to take any questions.