

February 7, 2025



**NACCA**

**BREAKING NEWS**



## **NACCA Champions Indigenous Economic Priorities at Canada-U.S. Summit**

The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and Indigenous Financial Institution (IFI) Network CEO Shannin Metatawabin is attending a landmark event today hosted by The Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The urgent Canada-U.S. Economic Summit in Toronto is being attended by invited Canadian leaders in trade, business, public policy, organized labour, and the Indigenous economy. The aim is to build on the work of the Prime Minister's Council on Canada-U.S. Relations advocating for equitable solutions amid the threat of U.S. tariffs.

The proposed tariffs threaten Indigenous businesses relying on export, specifically in industries such as energy, lumber, and fisheries. Indigenous enterprises are critical to Canada's economic fabric and face disproportionate impacts from these trade barriers, including rising costs, supply chain disruptions, and reduced market access.

NACCA will emphasize actionable priorities to accelerate the First Nations Procurement Authority (FNPA) and streamline certification for Indigenous businesses. CEO Shannin Metatawabin stated, "Indigenous companies are part of the solution for Canada's economic future. These businesses are stepping up and showing leadership with the challenges facing the country."

A proposed 10% tariff specifically on Canadian energy products could affect several industries across the country. Indigenous businesses in manufacturing such as lumber, and agriculture may struggle with higher production costs, making it more challenging to compete in the U.S. market. There are innovative initiatives in development that include a Development Finance Institute to support major Indigenous-led ventures. These measures align with NACCA's proven crisis-response strategies, exemplified during the pandemic through rapid loan deployment and advisory services.

"Indigenous businesses are not passive victims of trade disputes they are innovators driving sustainable growth," said Metatawabin. "From clean energy to Arctic security, our communities steward resources integral to national prosperity. We're here to encourage and support policies like investor tax incentives and prioritize Indigenous sovereignty and long-term resilience."

With U.S. tariffs likely to persist, NACCA urges collaborative efforts to diversify markets, strengthen domestic supply chains, and honour Indigenous rights in trade negotiations. NACCA is proud to be a key partner at the summit, dedicated to advancing economic reconciliation. Indigenous entrepreneurs and rights holders must remain at the forefront of the solution and will thrive as Canada navigates this pivotal moment.