

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$800 USD “de minimis” exemption lost, Chatham-Kent Chamber Urges Residents: Shop Local, Love Local, Stand Together, and Strengthen Our Community in Uncertain Times

Chatham-Kent, ON – August 29, 2025 — In response to the Trump administration’s abrupt cancellation of the \$800 USD “de minimis” exemption for cross-border shipments, the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is sounding the alarm and rallying residents to take action by supporting **local businesses, events, and producers**. Now, more than ever, every purchase is a vote for Chatham-Kent’s economic future.

The Challenge: New Barriers, New Resolve

With every Canadian shipment to the U.S.—large or small—now facing significant new customs costs and compliance hurdles, Chatham-Kent businesses that depended on those sales must adapt rapidly, seeking new markets and innovative solutions in a race against time. Yet transition takes months, and our local economy needs immediate support from those who know and love it best: our own community.

The Solution: Shop Local, Celebrate Local

This fall, the Chamber urges everyone to make a difference by supporting the abundance of **Chatham-Kent and Ontario fall fairs, festivals, and markets**. Discover farm-fresh produce, handmade goods, and one-of-a-kind gifts while connecting with the people whose livelihoods depend on local patronage. Every dollar spent at a fair or farmers’ market not only fills your basket with quality, but also delivers hope and stability to Chatham-Kent families.

Whether it’s your weekly groceries, Thanksgiving decorations, or holiday shopping—put Chatham-Kent first. Many local businesses now offer seamless **online shopping, delivery, and curbside pickup**. Before clicking “buy” on Amazon or another multinational site, take just a moment to search for Chatham-Kent goods online. Prioritize those who invest in our streets, sponsor our teams, and employ our neighbours.

The Impact: Power in Your Purchase

Every local purchase:

- Protects local jobs and keeps money in our community
- Helps businesses weather international uncertainty
- Celebrates Canadian innovation and quality

United for Chatham-Kent

“In times like these, standing up for Chatham-Kent means buying Chatham-Kent,” says Chatham-Kent Chamber Board Chair, Sarah Molnar. “Choose local merchants, local markets, and local online shops first. Let’s show the world how a community pulls together—come out to the fairs, shop our markets, support our businesses, and let’s keep Chatham-Kent strong.”

Shop Local Love Loca, visit your favourite local market, check out upcoming fall fairs, and search online for Chatham-Kent goods and services, once again it is the time to act with unity and pride.

Support what matters. Shop where it counts. Choose Chatham-Kent.

About Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce:

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce serves as the recognized voice of visionary leadership for over 350 members and businesses in the Chatham-Kent community. Their mission is to champion business excellence by encouraging business relations, integrating business with the community, and fostering entrepreneurship. They aim to enhance economic prosperity and quality of life for local businesses. You can find them at 54 Fourth St, Chatham, ON N7M 2G21. For inquiries, you can reach them at (519) 352-7540 or via email at info@chatham-kentchamber.ca.

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