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Dear Colleagues,

In May 2017, the United States government triggered the mandatory 90-day consultation period before any renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) can begin. This means that the parties can express their opening positions in any new trade discussion as early as mid-August. In mid-July, the United States Trade Representative is expected to publish the specific negotiating objectives of the United States government.

The businesses and organizations in London and Southwestern Ontario, the workers they employ and the customers and people that they serve are all impacted by the flow of goods and services across international borders and the current terms of NAFTA. Given the importance of these discussions to our city, and our region, London needs to do what it can to support the Government of Canada in these negotiations. This includes not just the City of London and its agencies, boards, and commissions, but the broader community and private sector as well. The London Economic Development Corporation and the London Chamber of Commerce can also play a leadership role in supporting these efforts.

In addition, as we have seen in the Canada-European Union Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) on domestic trade in Canada, trade agreements are now including measures related to sub-national (provincial and municipal) procurement that directly affect municipalities.

Given this, and recognizing the federal government's jurisdiction to negotiate trade agreements, we ask that Municipal Council support the Government of Canada in its trade negotiations by passing the following resolution:

"The City of London support the Government of Canada by providing information, data, and analysis to inform any trade negotiations with the United States of America. Further, that our municipal, community and business partners be encouraged to participate in this important endeavor."

Josh Morgan  
Councillor, Ward 7

Jesse Helmer  
Councillor, Ward 4