

In a world of growing uncertainty, economic security starts at home.



Toronto stands at a pivotal economic juncture. Global trade tensions, shifting tariffs and geopolitical instability are shaping anew where goods are made, how supply chains function and where jobs are located.

Our ability to protect good jobs, sustain domestic production and weather economic storms depends on something both fundamental and finite: land where businesses can operate, invest and grow. And create good jobs.

This is why employment lands matter.

Employment lands are the backbone of the real economy. They are where goods are made, moved and distributed. They are home to manufacturers, logistics firms, food producers and thousands of small and mid-sized businesses. They are where people go to work, earn a living, build skills and support their families.

These lands are irreplaceable. Once lost, they are almost impossible to recover.

Employment lands make a strong contribution in Toronto's economy. Though they occupy less than 12 per cent of the city's land, they support more than a quarter of all jobs and over 30 per cent of business establishments. More than 90 per cent of Toronto's manufacturing jobs are based here, and these areas attract sustained private investment. Industrial building permits have averaged more than \$63 million in recent years - a clear signal of long-term confidence from employers and investors.

Yet employment lands face mounting pressure. The sectors most exposed to global trade disruption - manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing - are concentrated here. When the stability of employment lands is in question, businesses hesitate to invest, expand or retain jobs. The consequences extend well beyond Toronto's borders.

Increasing housing supply and protecting employment lands are not competing goals. Toronto needs both. In fact, jobs and homes already successfully share space in many parts of the city - in offices, shops, studios and civic buildings. This integration is a strength and emblematic of Toronto's diversified, resilient economy.

But some forms of employment simply cannot operate alongside residential uses. These jobs are dependent upon stable, well-serviced employment lands. Losing these lands for other uses doesn't make housing more affordable; it pushes jobs farther from where people live, lengthens commutes and raises costs for workers, families and businesses.

A healthy city needs balance. When places to work disappear, pressure rises on transportation networks, on household budgets and the very neighbourhoods we aim to support.

Time is of the essence. Decisions made now will determine whether Toronto remains a place where businesses invest confidently and people find good jobs close to home.

Toronto's employment lands aren't just a local issue. As Canada's largest urban economy, what happens here ripples across Ontario and the country. When employment lands are protected and strengthened, the benefits extend through supply chains, regional industries and communities far beyond Toronto's borders. No one sector or government can address this challenge alone.

Protecting employment lands means protecting people's livelihoods. It ensures Toronto, Ontario and Canada remain places where new ventures can launch, businesses can invest, workers can find good jobs and communities can thrive, even in uncertain times.

Governments at all levels share a responsibility to steward this finite resource. Ensuring land for jobs and economic resilience is not only a matter of planning; it is an investment in the prosperity of future generations.

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