

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The United Steelworkers Locals 1005 and 8782 condemn Cleveland-Cliffs' plan to lay off 500 workers and call for action by Ottawa

HAMILTON - In October 2024, Cleveland-Cliffs made a series of binding commitments to ensure that Canadians would benefit from the sale of Stelco to the US-based Cleveland-Cliffs. One such commitment was that Cleveland-Cliffs would continue to employ the same number of unionized workers in Canada for at least five years. This was a condition on which the Federal government approved the sale. With the announced layoffs, Cleveland-Cliffs have violated the *Canada Investment Act* and have betrayed the Canadian people.

Cleveland-Cliffs has attempted to shift blame for their own decisions onto “market conditions” and the so-called “trade crisis”. In making this claim, Cleveland-Cliffs are obscuring their own role in manufacturing this crisis. Cleveland-Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves is a vocal supporter of the Trump administration’s trade war against Canada, publicly calling for the Trump administration to continue its punishing tariffs on Canadian steel and taking credit for 50 percent tariffs on steel imports into the US, telling reporters in October 2025 “I am very happy with 50 percent . . . I have my fingerprints on that 50 percent. In other words, I influenced that.” For Cleveland-Cliffs to claim that the planned layoffs are the result of external market factors beyond their control is disingenuous and contradictory.

The Federal Government must take immediate steps to ensure that Cleveland-Cliffs cannot violate their obligations to Canadian workers and families with impunity. The United Steelworkers Locals 1005 and 8782 applaud Prime Minister Carney for committing to use “all powers” to the “fullest extent of the law” to ensure that Cleveland-Cliffs is held accountable for the breach of its legal obligations. The United Steelworkers Locals 1005 and 8782 urge Prime Minister Carney and Minister of Industry, Mélanie Joly, to enforce the binding commitments made to Canadians by Cleveland-Cliffs under the *Canada Investment Act*.

A strong Canadian steel industry is essential to Canadian sovereignty. The United Steelworkers Locals 1005 and 8782 also call on the Federal government to implement countermeasures to defend the Canadian steel industry and protect jobs that support Steelworkers and their families.

For comment please contact:

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