

## **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Steel Industry Trade**

### **Issue:**

In order to capitalize fully on growth opportunities, fair, open, and market-based international competition must exist in the Canadian market. This will ensure that Canadian producers remain competitive.

### **Background:**

Canadian steel producers are world class and competitive. In recent years, the face of the steel industry in Canada has changed dramatically resulting in a more stable and competitive environment for Canadian producers. In 2007, the Canadian steel industry employed in excess of 35,000 people and produced 15.6 million metric tones of steel resulting in sales of over \$13 billion - including exports worth \$6 billion.

Canadian producers compete fairly in the domestic market, the North American market, and elsewhere. The industry has positioned itself to seize the significant growth opportunities that lie before it. It supports free, market-based trade as one of the keys for seizing these opportunities and opening up new ones.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Canada to:

- 1) Ensure an appropriate international trade environment that will encourage continued investment in Canada to strengthen the domestic steel industry as it competes globally.
- 2) Negotiate for strict trade rules through the WTO and use trade remedy mechanisms in a WTO and NAFTA-consistent manner to assess and respond to threats to the Canadian steel industry.