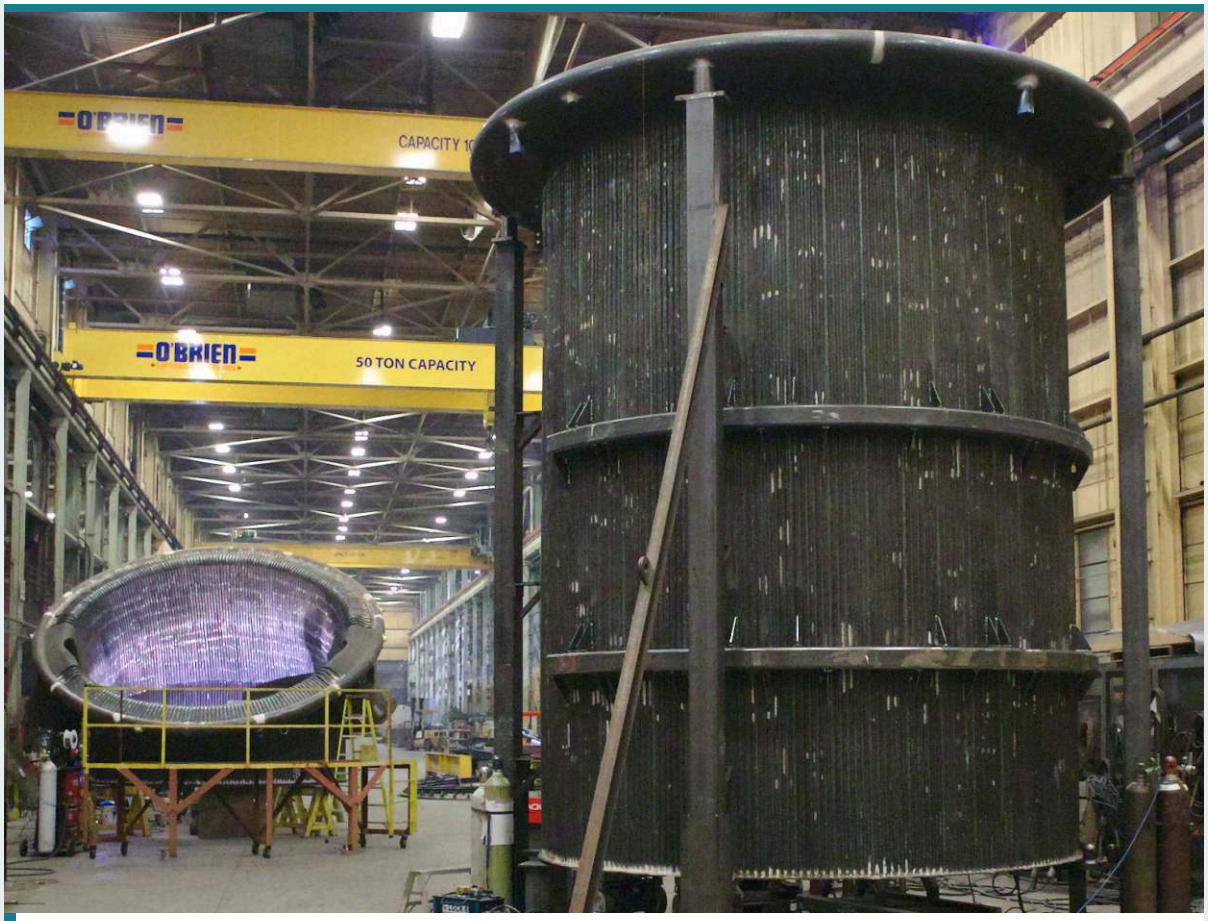
KUBES STEEL

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STEEL MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

No Steel Industry. No Economy. It Really Is That Simple.

Where there is a steel mill, there is a city. Where the mill struggles, the city feels it. Where the mill thrives, everything around it thrives.

With CUSMA under formal review as of July 1, 2026 and US Section 232 tariffs on steel running as high as 50%, there has never been a more important time to understand what the steel industry actually means to the communities, companies, and supply chains built around it. At Kubes Steel, this is not an abstract policy discussion. It is the story of how we came to be.

THE STEEL ECOSYSTEM — MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

When people think about a steel mill, they think about the blast furnaces, the basic oxygen furnaces, the rolling mills and the coils of finished steel coming off the line. What they don't always see is the industrial universe that forms around those mills — and that depends on them completely.

A single integrated steel plant is the anchor of an ecosystem that includes dozens, sometimes hundreds, of businesses providing everything the mill needs to operate and maintain itself:

STEEL FABRICATORS

Custom parts, replacement components, structural modules, and specialty assemblies the mill can't produce in-house.

MACHINE SHOPS

Precision machining of rolls, bearings, shafts, and mechanical components worn down by the relentless demands of steelmaking.

REFRACTORY & INSULATION

Furnace linings, ladle brick, and high-temperature insulation systems that keep molten steel contained and heat losses manageable.

NDE & INSPECTION

Non-destructive examination companies keeping the mill's critical equipment safe — ultrasonic testing, radiography, magnetic particle, and more.

INDUSTRIAL PAINTING & COATINGS

Protective coatings for equipment operating in extreme heat, chemical exposure, and abrasive environments.

HEAT TREATMENT

Stress relieving, normalizing, and hardening of fabricated components before they go back into service in the mill.

ENGINEERING FIRMS

Process engineering, mechanical design, and project management for capital upgrades, shutdowns, and equipment replacements.

LOGISTICS & TRANSPORT

Specialized heavy haul carriers, crane operators, and rigging companies moving oversized components in and out of the plant.

Every one of those businesses employs people. Those people spend money locally. Their families live in the community. The mill doesn't just make steel — it makes an economy.

HAMILTON, ONTARIO — STEEL CITY IN NUMBERS

Hamilton is Canada's steel capital. Home to **ArcelorMittal Dofasco** — Canada's largest flat steel producer, employing approximately 5,000 people and shipping 4.5 million net tons of high-quality steel annually — and **Stelco** (now owned by Cleveland-Cliffs since November 2024), the numbers tell the story clearly:

10,000
DIRECT STEEL JOBS IN HAMILTON

40,000
SPINOFF JOBS SUPPORTED BY STEEL

$16.5M
ANNUAL TAXES TO CITY OF HAMILTON

That $16.5M represents nearly 30% of Hamilton's total industrial tax contribution. When former Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horwath said she was concerned about tariffs affecting "Hamilton's economic future," she wasn't being dramatic. She was doing the math. So is everyone else in the ecosystem — including Kubes Steel.



STEEL MILL FABRICATION · FAN HOUSING

Massive Industrial Fan Housing for a Steel Mill

Steel mills run enormous forced-draft and induced-draft fan systems to manage airflow through blast furnaces, basic oxygen furnaces, and exhaust systems. When a fan housing fails or reaches end of life, the mill needs a replacement that fits exactly, is built to handle the loads and temperatures involved, and can be delivered on the mill's maintenance schedule — not whenever the fabricator gets around to it. This is a job for a shop with the capacity, the quality systems, and the experience to deliver. It is exactly

the kind of work Kubes Steel has been doing for the mills on our doorstep for five decades.

HEAVY FABRICATION · INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT · STEEL MILL SERVICES

THE STEEL REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

Steel production is geographically concentrated — and the communities built around those concentrations tell a consistent story about what happens when the industry thrives, and what's at stake when it doesn't.

CANADA

Hamilton, Ontario
CANADA'S STEEL CAPITAL

Home to ArcelorMittal Dofasco (4.5Mt/yr flat steel) and Stelco's Hamilton Works. The highest concentration of integrated steel production in Canada. Six of Canada's 13 steel plants operate in Ontario. Kubes Steel in Stoney Creek has grown up as part of this ecosystem for 50 years.

Nanticoke, Ontario
LAKE ERIE WORKS

Stelco's Lake Erie Works — now Cleveland-Cliffs following the $3.4B acquisition in November 2024 — produces approximately 2.5Mt/yr of flat-rolled steel. One of the most modern integrated steel plants in North America.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
ALGOMA STEEL

Canada's only producer of discrete plate products. Algoma achieved a major green steel milestone in July 2025 — first heat from its new Electric Arc Furnace — with full blast furnace phase-out targeted by end of 2026. A Canadian industrial transformation story in real time.

UNITED STATES

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
THE ORIGINAL STEEL CITY

The city that steel built. At peak, Pittsburgh produced more steel than the entire United Kingdom. Today US Steel's Mon Valley Works continues the tradition. The collapse of Pittsburgh steel in the 1980s remains the defining case study of what happens to a community when the anchor industry fails.

Gary, Indiana
US STEEL GARY WORKS

US Steel's largest integrated facility and one of the largest steel plants in North America. Gary was literally built by US Steel in 1906 — named after the company's chairman. The plant's fortunes and the city's fortunes have been inseparable ever since.

Cleveland, Ohio
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS HQ

Headquarters of Cleveland-Cliffs — now the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America following acquisitions of AK Steel, ArcelorMittal USA, and Stelco. Cleveland's industrial identity has been inseparable from steel and metals production for over a century.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A CAUTIONARY HISTORY

Bethlehem Steel was once the second-largest steel producer in the US, building the Golden Gate Bridge, the Empire State Building, and much of the US Navy's WWII fleet. Its closure in 2003 devastated the community. Bethlehem's story is a reminder of what is truly at stake in the current trade debate.

KUBES STEEL — KEEPING THE MILLS RUNNING FOR 50 YEARS



STEEL MILL FABRICATION · FUME HOOD

Custom Inconel Overlay Fume Hood — Ready for Delivery

This completed fume hood section — fabricated from carbon steel with a full Inconel overlay applied by Kubes Steel — is headed back to the steel mill that ordered it. Inconel is a high-performance nickel-chromium superalloy specified for its exceptional resistance to heat, oxidation, and corrosion. In a steelmaking environment, where temperatures are extreme and the atmosphere is chemically aggressive, Inconel overlay is the difference between a component that lasts years and one that fails in months. This is a returning customer — they ordered the first one, put it in service, and came back for more.

CUSTOM FABRICATION · INCONEL OVERLAY · STEEL MILL SERVICES · HAMILTON



STEEL MILL FABRICATION · WALKING BEAM

Walking Beam Refurbishment — Oversize Load, On Schedule

A walking beam furnace moves steel slabs through a reheating furnace using a series of fixed and moving beams — an endlessly repeated mechanical cycle in one of the most punishing thermal environments in industry. When a walking beam reaches end of life it needs to be refurbished or replaced — and the mill cannot wait. This refurbished beam, loaded oversize on a flatbed for delivery, represents exactly the kind of mission-critical turnaround work that has kept Kubes Steel at the heart of the regional steel ecosystem. The mill knows we can deliver to their shutdown schedule. That trust is built over decades, not projects.

MILL EQUIPMENT · REFURBISHMENT · HEAVY FABRICATION · OVERSIZE DELIVERY



STEEL MILL FABRICATION · SCRAP BOX

Scrap Box for a Mill Scale — The Unglamorous Work That Keeps Mills Moving

Not every mill fabrication job is dramatic. This scrap box — destined for a weigh scale at a steel mill — is a straightforward fabrication, but its construction demands the same dimensional accuracy and weld quality as anything else we build. Scrap is a critical raw material input for electric arc furnaces, and the systems that weigh, track, and manage scrap flows are essential to mill operations. It is a reminder that the ecosystem

supporting a steel mill includes everything from Inconel-clad fume hoods to scrap boxes — and that Kubes Steel does both.

CUSTOM FABRICATION · MILL EQUIPMENT · STEEL MILL SERVICES

CUSMA, TARIFFS, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR NORTH AMERICAN STEEL

The formal CUSMA review kicked off July 1, 2026. The stakes for the North American steel industry — on both sides of the border — are significant. Here is where things stand:

- **US Section 232 tariffs on steel** currently run from 15% to 50% on the full value of imported steel, aluminum, and copper products, effective April 6, 2026 — a significant increase from the previous regime which applied tariffs only on metal content value. For Canadian steel exporters with US customers, this changes the cost calculus on every shipment.
- **CUSMA-compliant goods receive preferential treatment** in many categories. For North American manufacturers on both sides of the border, ensuring CUSMA compliance in your supply chain — including rules of origin documentation — has never been more important.
- **Canada has formally requested CUSMA renewal** as of June 2026. Whatever happens at the negotiating table, CUSMA is slated to remain in force until at least 2036. Major US business and agriculture groups have consistently urged renewal, providing a counterweight to the tariff pressure.
- **The integrated nature of North American steel** is its own argument for resolution. Steel crosses the Canada-US border multiple times during the production cycle — raw materials in, semi-finished products out, finished goods back across. Tariffs applied at each crossing multiply the cost impact dramatically. This reality is well understood on both sides of the border.

Kubes Steel has customers in Canada and the United States. We are not going to tell either of them what trade policy to support. What we will say is that a strong, healthy steel industry on both sides of the border produces more work for everyone in the ecosystem — including us. That's where our interest lies.

THE PEDIGREE BEHIND THE NAME

Born in the Shadow of the Mills. Built to Serve Every Industry That Needs What We Know.

Kubes Steel was established in Stoney Creek in 1975 — in the backyard of ArcelorMittal Dofasco and Stelco. For the first decades of our existence, the mills

were our primary customers. They taught us what quality means when the cost of failure is a production shutdown. They taught us what on-time delivery means when a maintenance window is measured in hours. They gave us the standards that we now apply across every sector we serve.

That background is why Kubes Steel can serve mining operations in Northern Ontario, hydro power plants in British Columbia, nuclear facilities under CSA N299.3, oil and gas producers in Alberta, amusement parks in Florida, and defence contractors across North America. The disciplines we learned in the steel mill ecosystem translate everywhere the stakes are high and the tolerance for error is low.

When you partner with Kubes Steel, you get a shop with 50 years of steel mill discipline behind every weld, every rolling pass, and every shipment that leaves our door.

Have a Project That Demands Mill-Grade Standards?

Send us your drawings. We've seen tougher.

REQUEST A QUOTE →

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