

Beat: Politics

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Spoke With President Donald Trump

Concerning Upcoming Tariffs

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USPA NEWS - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's February 3rd Twitter statement after his phone call with US President Donald Trump concerning tariffs.

"I just had a good call with President Trump. Canada is implementing our \$1.3 billion border plan — reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl. Nearly 10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border."

"In addition, Canada is making new commitments to appoint a Fentanyl Czar, we will list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border, launch a Canada- U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering. I have also signed a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl and we will be backing it with \$200 million."

"Proposed tariffs will be paused for at least 30 days while we work together."

Here is a transcript of the Saturday, January 31st, Press Statement concerning the Government of Canada's response to the proposed tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had this to say:

"Good evening. Today, the United States informed us they will be imposing 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian exports to the United States and 10 per cent on Canadian energy, a decision that should they elect to proceed with should take effect on Tuesday, February 4th."

"This decision puts in peril a historic economic relationship, a relationship that has been the source of wealth, prosperity and possibility on both sides of the border.

Tonight, first, I want to speak directly to Americans, our closest friends and neighbours. This is a choice that yes, will harm Canadians, but beyond that, it will have real consequences for you, the American people. As I have consistently said, tariffs against Canada will put your jobs at risk, potentially shutting down American auto assembly plants and other manufacturing facilities. They will raise costs for you, including food at the grocery stores and gas at the pump. They will impede your access to an affordable supply of vital goods crucial for U.S. security such as nickel, potash, uranium, steel and aluminum. They will violate the free trade agreement that the president and I, along with our Mexican partner, negotiated and signed a few years ago."

"But it doesn't have to be this way. As President John F. Kennedy said many years ago, "Geography has made us neighbours, history has made us friends, economics has made us partners and necessity has made us allies." That rang true for many decades prior to President Kennedy's time in office and the decades since. From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of the Korean Peninsula, from the fields of Flanders to the streets of Kandahar, we have fought and died alongside you during your darkest hours."

"During the Iranian hostage crisis, those 444 days, we worked around the clock from our embassy to get your innocent compatriots home. During the summer of 2005, when Hurricane Katrina ravaged your great city of New Orleans, or mere weeks ago, when we sent water bombers to tackle the wildfires in California, during the day the world stood still — Sept. 11, 2001 — when we provided refuge to stranded passengers and planes, we were always there, standing with you, grieving with you, the American people."

"Together, we've built the most successful economic, military and security partnership the world has ever seen; a relationship that has been the envy of the world. Yes, we've had our differences in the past, but we've always found a way to get past them."

"As I've said before, if President Trump wants to usher in a new golden age for the United States, the better path is to partner with Canada, not to punish us. Canada has critical minerals, reliable and affordable energy, stable democratic institutions, shared values and the natural resources you need. Canada has the ingredients necessary to build a booming and secure partnership for the North American economy, and we stand at the ready to work together."

"Tonight, I am announcing Canada will be responding to the US trade action with 25 per cent tariffs against \$155 billion worth of American goods. This will include immediate tariffs on \$30 billion worth of goods as of Tuesday, followed by further tariffs on \$125 billion worth of American products in 21 days' time to allow Canadian companies and supply chains to seek to find alternatives."

"Like the American tariffs, our response will also be far-reaching and include everyday items such as American beer, wine and bourbon, fruits and fruit juices, including orange juice, along with vegetables, perfume, clothing and shoes. It will include major consumer products like household appliances, furniture and sports equipment. And materials like lumber and plastics, along with much, much more. And as part of our response, we are considering — with the provinces and territories — several non-tariff measures, including some relating to critical minerals, energy, procurement and other partnerships."

"We will stand strong for Canada. We will stand strong to ensure our countries continue to be the best neighbours in the world. With all that said, I also want to speak directly to Canadians in this moment. I'm sure many of you are anxious, but I want you to know we are all in this together. The Canadian government, Canadian businesses, Canadian organized labour, Canadian civil society, Canada's premiers and tens of millions of Canadians from coast to coast to coast are aligned and united. This is Team Canada at its best."

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