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Consulate General of Canada in Chicago statement on proposed U.S. tariffs

February 7, 2025

CHICAGO – Canada was disappointed by the U.S. Government's announcement that it would impose a 25% tariff on general Canadian exports and a 10% tariff on Canadian energy exports to the United States. If implemented, these proposed tariffs would harm Canadians and carry real costs and consequences for the American people.

Trade

Every day, nearly US\$2.5 billion in goods and services cross the Canada-U.S. border; almost US\$1 trillion per year. Many of these goods are vital inputs for U.S. industry and the manufacturing of finished products that U.S. companies sell back to Canada and on the global market. Eight million U.S. jobs are tied to trade with Canada.

In 2023, total trilateral merchandise trade between the three countries was worth US\$1.4 trillion – a five-fold increase since 1993.

In manufacturing specifically, the U.S. has had a trade surplus with Canada since 2007. In 2023, this surplus stood at US\$33 billion. Canada was the only top five trade partner with whom the U.S. ran a trade surplus in manufacturing.

In the Midwest, [Canada-U.S. trade](#) is an essential economic driver. Annual combined trade between Canada and the Midwestern states is worth over US\$305 billion. Canadian companies employ 215,000 workers in these states.

[Energy from Canada](#) literally powers this region and provides a reliable and irreplaceable supply for refineries in Joliet, Lemont and Robinson (Illinois), Whiting (Indiana), and Superior (Wisconsin). The proposed U.S. tariffs would increase energy prices across America and especially in the Midwest; at home and at the pump.

Border security

Canada and the U.S. share the longest secure border in the world. Our close cooperation and coordination on border management keeps legitimate trade and travel flowing while fighting illicit activity.

In December, Canada [announced a US\\$1 billion investment to bolster border security and strengthen our immigration system](#). This builds upon the successes already achieved in securing the Canada-U.S. border. Canada's work toward eliminating sources of illegal southbound movement has already resulted in an 89% reduction from peak 2024 levels.

Canada has reduced visa fraud through tightened processing measures and a 600% increase in visa investigations. We conduct security screenings on 100% of asylum seekers and high-risk visitors, and have increased the removal of failed asylum seekers. To eliminate illegal border crossings, Canada is investing in more border surveillance equipment and capacity including drones, towers, Black Hawk helicopters and K-9 teams.

Fentanyl trafficking and the overdose epidemic is a shared public health crisis. In 2023, 0.2% of fentanyl seizures by U.S. authorities occurred at the northern border. The newly established Canada-U.S. Enforcement Strike Force, with plans to develop joint intelligence mapping with the U.S. this month, will identify shared targets and collaborate on specific operations.

On February 1, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada would respond to the proposed U.S. trade action, if implemented, with tariffs against \$155 billion worth of American goods. Canada would also consider several non-tariff measures. This is not the path we want to take.

The Canada-U.S. relationship is built on generations of partnership, collaboration and friendship. In an increasingly volatile world, now is not the time to jeopardize this.

We stand ready to work together to confront the challenges we face; here in the Midwest and across the country. The Government of Canada will continue to work with the U.S. Government while these proposed tariffs are paused.

Contacts

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