

Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: International Office in Boston

Issue: To provide an overview of the status of the international office in Boston.

Background and Current Status:

- First announced in 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador opened an international office in Boston in 2025.
- The purpose of Newfoundland and Labrador's Boston Office, co-located with the Canadian Consulate, is to collaborate across provincial departments and industries; develop and leverage commercial relationships to aid Newfoundland and Labrador firms with bringing their products, services and/or experiences to market in the United States (U.S.); promote opportunities for international firms to do business in Newfoundland and Labrador; and foster relationships with key U.S. stakeholders and counterparts.
- The office is established as per a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in 2024. GAC is mandated to manage the procurement of goods, services, and real property in support of Diplomatic and Consular Missions.
- In addition to requirements such as following Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada's Common Service Policy, other Government of Newfoundland and Labrador policies were established such as a Foreign Service Handbook.
- Approximately \$1.1 million was allocated in IGAS' 2025-26 budget for the Boston Office. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(c)

- The Boston Office is currently staffed with an Executive Director (a Canada Based Staff (CBS) from Newfoundland and Labrador) and a Senior Program Assistant (a Locally Engaged Staff (LES)) from the U.S. [REDACTED]
- The Executive Director relocated from Newfoundland and Labrador to Boston in September 2025. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Staff have met with several Government of Newfoundland and Labrador departments to identify potential priorities for activity in the New England area. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 40(1)

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

[REDACTED] In addition to stakeholder engagement on specific matters, staff attend events in New England and Newfoundland and Labrador to make connections across both jurisdictions. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

- The For All of Us platform identified repurposing funds for the Boston Office.

Analysis:

International Offices

- Three Canadian provinces - NS, PEI and MB – do not have international offices. Of the Canadian provinces with international offices, the following is a summary of provinces and number of offices: QC (33), BC (23), AB (18), ON (14), SK (10), NB (3) and Newfoundland and Labrador (1). See Annex B for a detailed list of locations per province.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

The current Consul-General of Canada in Boston is the Honourable Bernadette Jordan.

- The Trade Commissioners at the Consulate include Newfoundland and Labrador's Boston Office staff in their efforts to engage local entrepreneurial networks such as the Canadian Entrepreneurs in New England events, startup accelerator programs [Redacted] and industry events [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 40(1)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 40(1)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 40(1)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

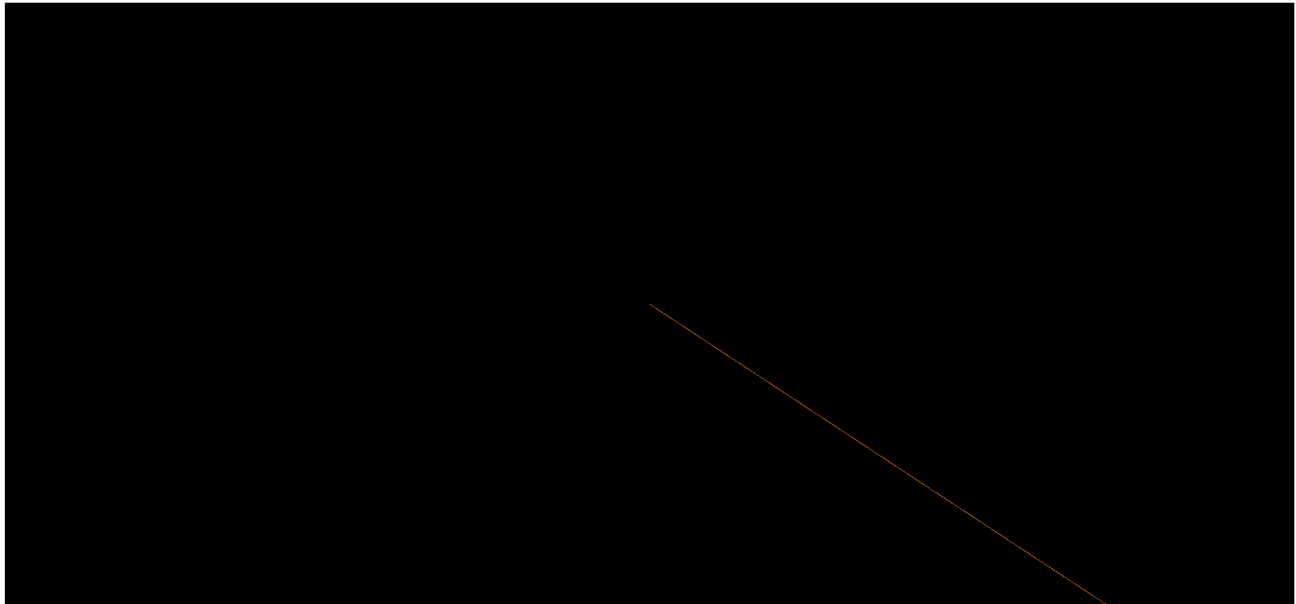
Prepared by: G. Skinner, DM

January 7, 2026

ANNEX A**Three Year Budget for Foreign Office (Boston)**

	Year			Total
	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	
NL-posted staff Total	\$ 552,714	\$ 538,788	\$ 538,788	\$ 1,630,290
Salary	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	
Human Resource Management	\$ 4,886	\$ 4,686	\$ 4,686	
IM/IT	\$ 23,410	\$ 19,982	\$ 19,982	
Program Delivery Support Services	\$ 19,155	\$ 17,187	\$ 17,187	
Property and Material	\$ 134,428	\$ 120,144	\$ 120,144	
Security Services	\$ 15,270	\$ 14,060	\$ 14,060	
Transportation Services	\$ 3,844	\$ 2,686	\$ 2,686	
Total Discounts	\$ (29,279)	\$ (20,957)	\$ (20,957)	
Employee Benefit Plan (27% of Salary)	\$ 81,000	\$ 81,000	\$ 81,000	
GAC-hired support staff				
Senior Officer Total	\$ 293,156	\$ 288,627	\$ 288,628	\$ 870,412
Salary	164,385	164,386	164,387	
Human Resource Management	\$ 8,166	\$ 7,438	\$ 7,438	
IM/IT	\$ 23,410	\$ 19,982	\$ 19,982	
Program Delivery Support Services	\$ 19,155	\$ 17,187	\$ 17,187	
Property and Material	\$ 41,447	\$ 37,384	\$ 37,384	
Security Services	\$ 7,668	\$ 7,142	\$ 7,142	
Transportation Services	\$ 3,844	\$ 2,686	\$ 2,686	
Total Discounts	\$ (19,303)	\$ (11,962)	\$ (11,962)	
Employee Benefit Plan (27% of Salary)	\$ 44,384	\$ 44,384	\$ 44,384	
Clerk Total	\$ 175,532	\$ 171,002	\$ 171,002	\$ 517,537
Salary	\$ 71,768	\$ 71,768	\$ 71,768	
Human Resource Management	\$ 8,166	\$ 7,438	\$ 7,438	
IM/IT	\$ 23,410	\$ 19,982	\$ 19,982	
Program Delivery Support Services	\$ 19,155	\$ 17,187	\$ 17,187	
Property and Material	\$ 41,447	\$ 37,384	\$ 37,384	

Security Services	\$ 7,668	\$ 7,142	\$ 7,142	
Transportation Services	\$ 3,844	\$ 2,686	\$ 2,686	
Total Discounts	\$ (19,303)	\$ (11,962)	\$ (11,962)	
Employee Benefit Plan (27% of Salary)	\$ 19,377	\$ 19,377	\$ 19,377	
Advance Account	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 405,000
Sub-Total	\$ 1,156,402	\$ 1,133,418	\$ 1,133,419	\$ 3,423,239
10% Margin for Estimates	\$ 115,640.23	\$ 113,341.76	\$ 113,341.89	\$ 342,323.87
Total	\$ 1,272,043	\$ 1,246,759	\$ 1,246,761	\$ 3,765,563



s. 29(1)(a)

ANNEX B**Jurisdictional Scan of Canadian Provincial Foreign Offices**

Province	International Trade and Investment Office(s)
AB	<p>Abu Dhabi (UAE) Beijing (China) Chicago (US) Dallas (US) Dusseldorf (Germany) Guangzhou (China) London (UK) Mexico City (Mexico) Minneapolis (US) Mumbai (India) New Delhi (India) Seattle (US) Seoul (South Korea) Shanghai (China) Singapore Taiwan Tokyo (Japan) Washington D.C.</p>
BC	<p>Amsterdam (The Netherlands) Austin (US) Beijing (China) Bengaluru (India) Boston (US) Chandigarh (India) Guangzhou (China) Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) Jakarta (Indonesia) London (UK) Los Angeles (US) Manila (Philippines) Mexico City (Mexico) Mumbai (India) New Delhi (India) San Francisco (US) Seattle (US) Seoul (South Korea) Shanghai (China) Singapore Stuttgart (Germany) Taipei (Taiwan) Tokyo (Japan)</p>

Province International Trade and Investment Office(s)					
NB	Paris (France) <i>Co-located with GAC</i>				
	New Delhi (India) <i>Co-located with GAC</i>				
ON	Bengaluru (India) <i>Co-located with GAC</i>				
	[REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)				
QC	Chicago (US)				
	Beijing (China)				
SK	Dallas (US)				
	London (UK)				
QC	Mexico City (Mexico)				
	Mumbai (India)				
QC	Munich (Germany)				
	New Delhi (India)				
QC	NYC (US)				
	Paris (France)				
QC	San Francisco (US)				
	Seoul (South Korea)				
QC	Tokyo (Japan)				
	Washington, D.C.				
QC	General Delegations	Delegation	Bureau	Trade Office	Representation in multilateral affairs
	Brussels (Belgium) Dakar (Senegal) London (UK) NYC (US) Mexico City (Mexico) Munich (Germany) Paris (France) Tokyo (Japan)	Atlanta (US) Boston (US) Chicago (US) Houston (US) Los Angeles (US) Miami (US) Rome (Italy) Seattle (US) Seoul (S. Korea) Singapore Washington, D.C. (US)	Abidjan Barcelona Beijing (China) Shanghai Bogota (Columbia) Mumbai (India) Rabat (Morocco) Sao Paulo (Brazil) Tel-Aviv (Israel)	Berlin (Germany) Milan (Italy) Qingdao (China) Shenzhen (China)	Francophone and Multilateral Delegation Quebec's presence as a member of the permanent delegation of Canada to UNESCO
SK	Beijing (China)				
	Berlin (Germany)				
SK	Dubai (UAE)				
	Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam)				
SK	London (UK)				
	Mexico City (Mexico)				
SK	New Delhi (India)				
	Shanghai (China)				
SK	Singapore				
	Tokyo (Japan)				

Information Note Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: CUSMA Review - Trade Policy Stakeholder Engagement

Issue: [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:

- CUSMA, the trilateral agreement that governs trade in North America, replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) effective July 1, 2020. Among the notable changes was the introduction of a six-year review provision and a 16-year sunset provision, creating a structured timeline for review, renegotiation, or termination, depending on the consensus.
- Established under Article 34.7 within CUSMA, Canada, the U.S., and Mexico must conduct a joint review of CUSMA's performance, with the first review scheduled to begin on June 30, 2026. During the review, each party may raise concerns or propose amendments. If all three countries agree, the agreement is extended for another 16 years from the date of review. This clause was intended to serve as a structured opportunity to revisit key provisions and address emerging trade issues to maintain relevance and balance in the agreement.
- If consensus is not reached during the review, CUSMA enters a sunset phase and will be set to expire 16 years after its original implementation (June 30, 2036). In this scenario, the parties must meet annually to attempt resolution. If no agreement is reached within the 10-year window following the first review, the agreement terminates automatically.

Analysis

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

• [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

• [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The U.S. has indicated, both publicly and through bilateral engagement, that continuation of CUSMA will require changes. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- Determining priorities for Newfoundland and Labrador requires direct input from stakeholders, especially in sectors that rely on predictable access to North American markets.

• [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) have been running public consultations since 2024 regarding the CUSMA review.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Examples of Initial Concerns

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Effective October 22, 2025, following the United States' "Section 232" (National Security Investigation on lumber), the U.S. imposed a 10% tariff rate, in addition to the

current antidumping and countervailing duties, on certain softwood lumber products. Newfoundland and Labrador producers are not exempt from this new 10% duty.

- Dairy - the U.S. has twice challenged Canada's Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allocation system under CUSMA, which has led Canada to make some policy changes.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Action Being Taken:

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared by/Reviewed by: J. Bonnell /R. Squires/ J. Dredge / M. Janes

Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

[Redacted]

s. 40(1)

January 12, 2026

Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

Issue: To provide an overview of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon's (SPM) intergovernmental relations with Newfoundland and Labrador.

Background and Current Status:

- SPM has been an overseas collectivité territoriale (collective territory) of France since 2003. The archipelago is located about 20 kilometers off the southern coast (i.e., Burin Peninsula) of the island of Newfoundland, with a population of about 6,000 people. The island of Saint-Pierre is home to almost 90 per cent of the total population and is the administrative and commercial centre.
- As a collectivité territoriale, SPM has a devolved parliamentary system, meaning it manages local affairs through an elected Territorial Council and its President, Mr. Bernard Briand. By way of comparison, the President would be the equivalent of a provincial premier in Canada. The Government of France handles defense and foreign policy, represented locally by a Prefect, Mr. Bruno André. Additionally, SPM features an elected 19-member council, an executive body (Executive Council), and its residents also elect representatives to the French National Assembly and Senate. **Annex A** offers an overview of SPM's governmental structure.
- SPM's economy, once almost entirely dependent on cod fishing, underwent a significant shift after the 1992 Canadian cod moratorium impacted its traditional industry. Today, the collectivité territoriale relies on public administration and federal subsidies, while pursuing diversification. Fishing remains culturally significant, with snow crab now the primary export, alongside smaller-scale activities in agriculture and energy. Tourism is a growing but seasonal sector, leveraging the islands' unique French identity and proximity to Canada.
- Given its close geographical proximity to the province, SPM and Newfoundland and Labrador have shared a relationship of collaboration and friendship based on trade and business ties, heritage and historical connections, as well as cultural and educational exchanges.
- In addition to being a strong advocate for Newfoundland and Labrador's Francophone community, SPM has close ties with the Fédération des Francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum, Hawco Productions, and Memorial University in St. John's. SPM also works closely with economic development partners in the tourism industry to help market the French islands as a tourism experience in conjunction with Heritage Run and Legendary Coasts of Eastern Newfoundland on the Burin Peninsula.
- Annual goods exported from Newfoundland and Labrador to SPM totaled almost \$32 million in 2024, primarily composed of petroleum oils, with further economic and social activity generated related to services provided by businesses and organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador to the residents of SPM. Travel is facilitated via a round-year ferry service from SPM to Fortune, provided by SPM Ferries, along with regular air service provided by Air Saint Pierre.
- A contract for the provision of health care services has been in place between Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS) and Caisse the Prévoyance Sociale de Saint Pierre et Miquelon (CPS) since 1996. In 2017, these contracts were replaced by the Health Care Services Agreement and the Rate Agreement signed by the Province, NLHS and SPM. [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

[REDACTED] In SPM, the national French government has authority and legal responsibility for health care. [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Analysis:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Action Being Taken:

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Prepared/Reviewed by: I. Carvalho/A. Ledwell/ J. Barnes

Approval: G. Skinner, DM

January 14, 2026

[REDACTED]

s. 40(1)

ANNEX A

SPM's Governmental Structure

Executive Power is split between local leadership and national representation:

- **Head of Local Government:** The President of the Territorial Council (Bernard Briand) heads the local executive and manages autonomous affairs.
- **Executive Council:** A local cabinet made up of the President and six vice-presidents that exercises executive power.
- **State Representative:** The Prefect (Marc Didio) represents the President of France and oversees national interests, law enforcement, and public order.
- **Chief of State:** The President of France (Emmanuel Macron).

Legislative Power

- **Territorial Council:** A unicameral local legislature consisting of 19 members (15 from Saint-Pierre and 4 from Miquelon-Langlade) elected for six-year terms.
- **National Representation:** Residents also elect representatives to the central French Parliament (one seat in the National Assembly and one seat in the Senate)

Areas of Power and Authority

Authority Level	Areas of Responsibility
Territorial Council (President)	Local taxation, customs, environment, maritime resources, natural resources, ship registration, agriculture, and transportation (e.g., SPM Ferries).
French State (Prefect)	Defense, secondary education, health, national roads, civil aviation, border control, and gendarmerie (national police).
Mixed Authority	Maritime affairs, public finance (tax collection on behalf of communes), and departments like DTAM (Territories, Food, and Sea).

Judicial and Administrative Structure

- **Judiciary:** The territory follows French law, with local judicial matters handled by the Superior Tribunal of Appeals (Tribunal Supérieur d'Appel).
- **Communes:** Administratively, the territory is divided into two municipalities (communes): Saint-Pierre and Miquelon-Langlade.

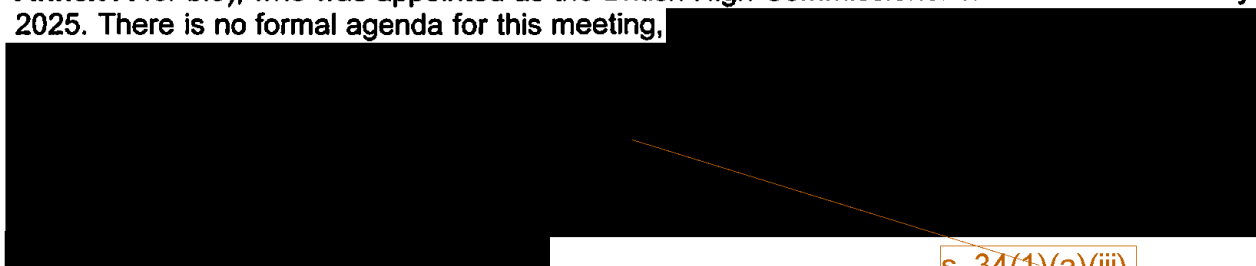
Meeting Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat
Meeting with the British High Commissioner to Canada
Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Confederation Building – 8th Floor, East Block

Participants:

- The Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
- His Excellency Rob Tinline, British High Commissioner to Canada
- Vanessa McBay, Honourary Consul for the United Kingdom in Newfoundland and Labrador

Purpose of the Meeting:

- This is the first official visit to Newfoundland and Labrador by High Commissioner Tinline (see **Annex A** for bio), who was appointed as the British High Commissioner to Canada in February 2025. There is no formal agenda for this meeting,



s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Background and Current Status:

- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is a sovereign state consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The UK's Office of National Statistics estimates the population of the UK in mid-2025 was 69.487 million and is expected to reach 70 million in 2026. The UK has a landmass of 244,376 km², which is approximately 60 per cent of the size of Newfoundland and Labrador's landmass (405,720 km²).
- The UK is a parliamentary democracy similar to Canada. On July 5, 2024, Keir Starmer, leader of the centre-left Labour Party, became Prime Minister after winning a majority government with 412 of 650 seats.
- According to the World Bank, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the UK in 2024 was \$3.69 trillion USD. The UK's economy is service industry dominated, including strengths in the finance, retail, hospitality, health, and education sectors. Global Affairs Canada advises that service industries (retail, finance, public sector, business administration, leisure, and cultural activities) accounted for 84.8 per cent of all employment across the UK as of March 2024.
- On June 23, 2025, the UK government released "The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy 2025", a 10-year plan aimed at addressing low growth by focusing on boosting productivity and innovation across eight key sectors of the economy: advanced manufacturing; clean energy industries; creative industries, defence, digital and technologies; financial services; life sciences; and, professional and business services.

Canada – UK Relations

- The UK is Canada's third-largest individual trading partner and trade remains a vital component of Canada and the UK's economic relationship. The Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement (TCA) entered into force on April 1, 2021, to preserve the market access and rules established under the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) following Brexit.
- Beyond the bilateral TCA, Canada-UK trade is also supported under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). While the UK formally acceded

to the CPTPP in December 2024, the legislation to implement the UK Accession Protocol was introduced in the House of Commons on October 21, 2025. Canada's domestic ratification process remains ongoing, with Bill C-13 advancing to the Standing Committee on International Trade on December 11, 2025.

- Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Starmer met in London and Ottawa on several occasions in 2025 to reaffirm Canada–UK ties, Canada's joining of the Coalition of the Willing on Ukraine, NATO security, UK defence spending, and Canada's upcoming G7 priorities.
- The Canada–UK defence relationship will be expanded across military operations, industrial collaboration, and innovation, including pursuing a new long-term arrangement for British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) through the BATUS Future Project and strengthening CFB Suffield as a major training and defence innovation hub. CFB Suffield is located in Medicine Hat, AB and hosts BATUS and UK forces to conduct large-scale training exercises on the prairie terrain.
- Cooperation across intelligence, cyber, and national security will be intensified, including joint efforts to counter terrorism, foreign interference, cyber and information threats, and transnational repression, supported by initiatives such as the Canada–UK Common Good Cyber Fund.

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Trade and Business Partnerships

- In 2024, the UK was Newfoundland and Labrador's fourth-largest export destination behind the United States (U.S.), the Netherlands, and Germany. Exports consisted mainly of energy and mining products, led by crude petroleum and iron ore. Exports fell about 38 per cent from 2023 due to lower crude petroleum shipments. Full trade statistics can be found in **Annex C**.
- Imports from the UK totaled \$655 million in 2024, largely driven by offshore energy investment. The import of a floating or submersible drilling or production platform represented the single largest import, with additional imports consisting mainly of petroleum products and industrial and mechanical equipment.

Analysis:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- The province's rapidly advancing technology sector is increasingly gaining international recognition and can be a growing source of international trade and investment attraction.
- Newfoundland and Labrador's \$1.8 billion technology sector includes world-leading ocean technology firms such as Kraken Robotics, Rutter, and GRi Simulations, and offers advanced solutions in seabed mapping, maritime safety, and simulation. [Redacted]
- Newfoundland and Labrador's aerospace and defence companies are developing drone and holographic technologies with the potential to assist with surveillance, mission planning and real-time operational monitoring.
- The province's health tech and life sciences companies are developing solutions to a variety of health care challenges that can benefit other jurisdictions. For example, Sparrow Acoustics has

s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

s. 29(1)(a)

developed an iPhone app licensed in Canada and the U.S. that turns a mobile phone into a medical-grade stethoscope that can detect and monitor cardiovascular disease.

- [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

Education

- Memorial University's Harlow Campus opened in Old Harlow, Essex, UK in 1969. The Harlow Campus offers programs and serves as a base for faculty members and graduate students conducting research or further study in the UK. Programs offered at Harlow Campus at varying times include biology, business, education (internship), fine arts (theatre and visual arts), music, and pharmacy (clinical rotation).
- The Marine Institute signed a memorandum of understanding in March 2024 with the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport to develop Ocean Futures internationally as a platform for exchanging knowledge and to encourage shared investment and standards globally. Focus areas include uncrewed and autonomous technology, remote operations, ocean technology, maritime cybersecurity, maritime policy, and human factors.

Analysis:

s. 40(1)

- EECD advises that the College of the North Atlantic has [REDACTED] students from the UK as of December 16, 2025.

- [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

Immigration and Recruitment Efforts

- According to JGRD, between 2020 and 2025, there were 217 UK permanent resident landings in the province, and between 2020 and 2024, there were 144 temporary residents from the UK in the province.

Analysis:

- In 2025, JGRD conducted a variety of immigration and recruitment activities in the UK, such as:
 - conducting one-on-one meetings with UK residents interested in relocating to Newfoundland and Labrador;
 - delivering presentations at post-secondary institutions offering programs in paramedicine, social work, and education (K-12 and early childhood education), including Aston University, University of Bristol, University of Hertfordshire and Portsmouth University.

s. 29(1)(a); s. 35(1)(d)

- engaging Memorial University's Harlow campus for partnership opportunities;
- partnering with other provincial departments to sponsor the Canada Day London event in Trafalgar Square, which included, among other things, hosting an Immigration Pathways event at Canada House, attended by 45 individuals from sectors such as teachers, social workers, nurses, paramedics, physicians and early childhood educators considering immigrating to the province;

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

- o meeting with the UK Paramedicine Board and UK College of Paramedics to discuss opportunities to attract paramedics to the province.

- o along with Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS), attending HealthDaq Doctors Job Shows in London, with an estimated attendance of 500 physicians.

- Between March 2024 and October 2025, JGRD's in-country operations in the UK have resulted in over 8,000 registrants on Newfoundland and Labrador's virtual recruitment platform seeking opportunities to live and work in the province.
- Between June 2024 and December 2025, JGRD has approved 55 applications to provincial immigration programs, totaling 196 individuals from the UK.
- Local employers have reported 40 job offers extended to UK residents, with 38 in the healthcare sector.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

Tourism

- In 2024, non-stop air access between the province and the UK was re-established with the re-launch of WestJet's seasonal Gatwick – St. John's service. The route operates 77 flights annually, providing approximately 13,400 inbound seats. In November 2024, it was announced that the service would be extended through to 2027, operating four days per week.

Analysis:

- TCAR advises that the UK is Newfoundland and Labrador's largest international tourism source market, outside the U. S, with between 7,500 and 8,000 visitors to the province from the UK each year. These visitors tend to stay longer than average and are high-yield, generating nearly \$14 million in visitor spending annually.
- Market research from Destination Canada continues to highlight significant tourism growth potential from the UK, with more than 500,000 UK travellers expressing interest in visiting the province. TCAR advises that travellers are motivated to visit Newfoundland and Labrador for the dramatic scenery, natural landscapes and coastlines, as well as the opportunity to experience wildlife in its natural habitat.
- Recent UK consumer research identifies direct, non-stop air service as a key decision-making factor when choosing Atlantic Canada as a destination, with nine in ten UK travellers indicating that direct flight access is important or critically important.

Defence

- There are three key military installations in Newfoundland and Labrador that play a significant role in Canadian and international defense:
 - o **5 Wing Goose Bay** – primary mandate is to provide support for North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) operations, as well as joint and combined military training for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Allied Forces, and NORAD partners.

- **9 Wing Gander** – primary mandate includes search and rescue, signals intelligence, radar operations, and reserve and cadet support
- **Garrison St. John's** – primary mandate includes support for Maritime Forces Atlantic naval operations, logistical and operational support for visiting NATO vessels, and support for local reserve units.
- 5 Wing Goose Bay is strategically located in Labrador and Canada's North and offers a vast 130,000 km² (approximately 35,000 square miles) training area able to support various joint and combined military operations, including low-level and supersonic flight training, as well as sub-arctic ground and winter warfare exercises.
- Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) maintained a long-standing presence at 5 Wing Goose Bay from 1942 to 2005. RAF operations began in 1942, supporting Allied transatlantic ferrying and refueling during the Second World War. Following WWII, the RAF continued to use Goose Bay as a strategic NATO stopover and training site through the early Cold War, contributing to continental air-defence activities. From the 1980s until 2005, the RAF operated "RAF (U) Goose Bay," a dedicated unit focused on low-level flight training, particularly for Tornado aircraft.

Analysis:

- Newfoundland and Labrador has significant assets and capabilities and is well-positioned to be a key player in intercontinental defence. Highlights include:
 - close geographic proximity to international shipping lanes, and northern sea routes;
 - strong relationships with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, including the Nunatsiavut Government in northern Labrador;
 - expertise in cold and harsh environments (operational and research and development);
 - businesses and a robust innovation ecosystem with established expertise in ocean technology and other key industries;
 - world-class educational institutions that provide leading research and a skilled workforce to support increasing economic activity, including the development of natural resources (e.g., oil and gas, mining, critical minerals, etc.);
 - experienced shipping and offshore supply and service capabilities; and,
 - ports and infrastructure that can support Arctic operations and logistics.
- With its strategic location, resources, infrastructure, capabilities and expertise, cutting-edge technological innovation, and industrial capacity, Newfoundland and Labrador is a strategic anchor for Canada and its allies at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains.

Energy

- Newfoundland and Labrador has an abundance of oil, natural gas, hydroelectricity and wind resources, as well as the potential to supply energy from other sources such as uranium, biomass, hydrogen, wave and tidal. Additionally, Newfoundland and Labrador has tremendous potential in the area of critical minerals, with 34 minerals identified as critical, of which 26 align with the list of critical and growth minerals identified by the UK.
- The UK has made several significant oil and gas policy changes since the new Labour government took office, including a ban on new Exploration Licences (offshore and onshore), ending the long-standing Maximizing Economic Recovery (MER) mandate, which previously required maximizing offshore extraction. See **Annex D** for more information.

Analysis:

- JGRD advises that the Province and the UK actively collaborate in international upstream forums, such as International Regulators' Forum, International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators and International Upstream Forum, that address offshore petroleum regulation, safety, resource management, and future offshore energy strategy.
- JGRD also collaborates with Canada House in London in advance of all in-market activities, including participation in the Offshore Europe Conference and Exhibition, held biennially in Scotland, UK.
- The Province maintains a strategic presence in the UK through ongoing participation in technical conferences and exhibitions. In March 2025, it presented a Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Opportunity update at the Business & Exploration Opportunities Show (BEOS) in London.
- Newfoundland and Labrador and the UK also have an established trade relationship in iron ore. Newfoundland and Labrador and the UK have both designated high-purity iron ore as critical, creating an opportunity to strengthen economic ties between both jurisdictions.
- In 2025, the Province advanced its international mining profile through strategic engagement in the UK. As part of the Canada Day London event, the Province hosted a dedicated mining panel, showcasing Newfoundland and Labrador's resource potential.
- From November 30 to December 5, 2025, the Province participated in a comprehensive UK-Atlantic Canada trade and investment mission aligned with London's Mining Week. Newfoundland and Labrador's delegation included three junior mining companies: FireFly Metals, New Found Gold, and Atlas Salt. The Province also contributed to two high-profile investment panels.
- These initiatives reinforced Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to global partnerships, investment attraction, and positioning the Province as a key player in the energy transition and critical minerals supply chain.

Potential Speaking Points:

- It is a pleasure to meet with you today and welcome you to our beautiful province.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is at a particularly important moment right now. While we are facing challenges similar to many other jurisdictions, we are also seeing real momentum and exciting new opportunities.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is leading the country in economic growth. Real GDP growth was projected at 5.3 per cent for 2025, the highest among all provinces, driven by strong performance in oil, mining, retail sales, and household incomes.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is known around the world for our dramatic landscapes, coastlines, heritage, and unique culture. Our tourism industry continues to be a major economic driver for the province, with travellers from the UK making up 25 per cent of our overseas visitors.
- The deep historical, cultural, and personal ties between our province and the UK form a natural foundation for this connection. With non-stop, seasonal air access between St. John's and Gatwick extended into 2027, travel between our jurisdictions for leisure or work is now easier than ever.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is a key player in the energy and critical minerals sectors. The Province has 34 minerals identified as critical, of which 26 align with the list of critical and growth

minerals identified by the UK. Newfoundland and Labrador's high-purity iron ore creates an opportunity to strengthen economic ties between our jurisdictions.

- Our rapidly advancing technology sector is a growing source of international partnerships. Our expertise in health tech and life sciences, seabed mapping, maritime safety, and simulation are at the forefront of innovation and may be of particular interest to the UK.
- We live in a world now where defence and security are of increasing importance, requiring us to work collaboratively, think proactively, and strengthen our capabilities to meet emerging challenges with confidence.
- Newfoundland and Labrador's aerospace and defence companies are developing technologies with the potential to assist with surveillance, mission planning, and real-time operational monitoring.
- We have the potential to be a significant contributor to defence needs and capacity given our unique geography, resources, infrastructure, capabilities and expertise, cutting-edge technological innovation, and industrial capacity.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic, and North American defence domains.
- Our province is home to strategic military bases that provide support for North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) operations, signals intelligence, radar operations, logistical and operational support for visiting NATO vessels, as well as exceptional military training opportunities for Canadian Armed Forces, Allied Forces, and NORAD partners.
- For example, 5 Wing Goose Bay is strategically located in Labrador and Canada's North. It offers a vast 130,000 km² (approximately 35,000 square miles) training area able to support various joint and combined military operations, most notably low-level and supersonic flight training, as well as sub-arctic ground and winter warfare exercises.
- You may be familiar with 5 Wing Goose Bay as the British Royal Air Force maintained a long-standing presence there from 1942 to 2005. Following World War II, the British Royal Air Force continued to use Goose Bay as a strategic NATO stopover and training site. From the 1980s until 2005, it operated a dedicated unit on the base focused on low-level flight training.
- There are many opportunities to strengthen ties between our jurisdictions from trade and business partnerships, energy and critical minerals, to defence technologies and strategic military training.
- I look forward to our continued discussions and collaboration.

Prepared/Reviewed By: S. Khayer et al./ C. Kenny/ J. Dredge/ A. Ledwell / J. Barnes
(in consultation with EM, JGRD, TCAR, EECD)

Approved By: G. Skinner, DM
January 14, 2026

s. 40(1)

ANNEX A

Biography

HIS EXCELLENCY ROB TINLINE, British High Commissioner to Canada



Rob Tinline has been British High Commissioner to Canada since February 2025. He represents the British Government in Canada and oversees the High Commission in Ottawa and Consulates in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary.

He is a career diplomat. Prior to arriving in Canada, he was Director Americas at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office from May 2022 to January 2025, advising on policy and overseeing the UK diplomatic network across the region. Before that he worked on the response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, having been Director for COVID-19 from 2020 to 2022 and Chief of the Assessments Staff for the Joint Intelligence Committee from 2017 to 2019. He was the founding head of the UK Government Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Centre. His overseas postings have included to British Embassies in Bogota and Madrid, to the UK Mission to the UN in New York, as Head of the Multinational Provincial Reconstruction Team in Basra, and as Deputy Head of Mission at the (then) UK Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

ANNEX C**NL – United Kingdom Direct Trade Overview (2024)****Exports**

Rank	HS6 Code	Product Description	Export Value (CAD)
1	270900	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	688,177,460
2	260111	Iron ores and concentrates, non-agglomerated	103,585,100
3	160521	Shrimps and prawns, prepared or preserved, not in airtight containers	28,117,048
4	480100	Newsprint, in rolls or sheets	21,045,504
5	260112	Iron ores and concentrates, agglomerated	16,566,383
Total (All Products)			925,178,758

NL Total Exports — Latest 5 Years

Destination / Total	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
United Kingdom	879,668,000	795,758,000	1,567,698,000	1,499,244,000	925,179,000
Others	9,639,766,000	13,665,721,000	14,327,040,000	10,950,498,000	12,968,858,000
Total (All Countries)	10,519,434,000	14,461,479,000	15,894,738,000	12,449,742,000	13,894,037,000

Imports

Rank	HS6 Code	Product Description	Import Value (CAD)
1	890520	Floating or submersible drilling or production platforms	476,833,216
2	271019	Petroleum oils & oils from bituminous minerals, other than light oils, non-crude	47,825,475
3	271012	Light oils and preparations from petroleum or bituminous minerals (non-crude)	36,664,242

4	854470	Optical fibre cables, made up of individually sheathed fibres	2,973,049
5	847989	Machines and mechanical appliances, nes, having individual functions	2,871,679
Total (All Products)			654,927,643

ANNEX D

UK Changes to Oil and Gas Policy

- The UK has made several significant oil and gas policy changes since the new Labour government took office, including a ban on new Exploration Licences (offshore and onshore), ending the long-standing Maximizing Economic Recovery (MER) mandate, which previously required maximizing offshore extraction.
- Instead of new exploration, the UK government has introduced Transitional Energy Certificates, allowing limited production only in areas directly adjacent to existing fields. These certificates do not permit new exploration and are meant to support a “managed, orderly, and prosperous transition” while keeping existing fields viable.
- Following court rulings and government action, developers must now assess Scope 3 emissions (end-use emissions from burning extracted oil/gas) in environmental impact assessments, a major regulatory shift.
- As a direct result of the new policies, 2025 was on track to be the first year since 1964 with zero new North Sea exploration wells drilled, reflecting collapsing investor confidence. This major shift in policy intends to aggressively accelerate the transition toward clean energy and workforce retraining.
- The UK is making one of the largest national investments in carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) in the world, positioning CCUS as a central pillar of its net-zero and industrial strategy. The government has committed nearly £22 billion over 25 years to support the first wave of CCUS projects, including major industrial “clusters” such as HyNet, the East Coast Cluster, Acorn, and Viking.

Meeting with Minister LeBlanc – Annotated Agenda
January 16, 2026 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

s. 31(1)(l)

Location	[REDACTED]
Participants	The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Internal Trade The Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador Other Premiers (participants to be confirmed)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[REDACTED]

- General background information is provided in Annex A and Newfoundland and Labrador seafood exports to China by species are provided in Annex B.

Suggested Speaking Points:

- I would like to express my thanks to Prime Minister Carney for securing relief that matters. As you know, I've raised this issue at the First Ministers' table and with the federal fisheries minister on multiple occasions.
- With Newfoundland and Labrador being a significant Canadian seafood exporter to China, this is welcome news for our coastal communities.
- The ongoing trade dispute with China, and specifically the retaliatory tariff on Canadian seafood, is having a direct and damaging effect on our economy— [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- Resolving these barriers is essential for protecting jobs, supporting our fishery, and ensuring the long-term prosperity of Newfoundland and Labrador's coastal regions.
- China has long been a critical market for our seafood sector, so we are pleased to see that lobster and crab have been identified for tariff relief beginning March 1.

- However, several other key species, including shrimp, halibut and clam, represent approximately 79 per cent of our Province's seafood exports to China.

- Are these additional species included in ongoing discussions? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- We understand that the announced tariff relief is expected to remain in place until at least the end of 2026. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Producers and processors will be looking for clarity and predictability. They will also need technical details on how this agreement in principle will be implemented. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Prepared/ Reviewed by: C. Kenny/J. Dredge/J. Barnes
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] s. 40(1)

January 16, 2026

ANNEX A

Backgrounder

Fisheries:

- China is a critical export market for the Newfoundland and Labrador seafood industry, second only to the United States, usually accounting for 15-20 per cent of the province's total export value. [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- Many provincial seafood companies are active in the Chinese market and several of them have offices in China, including Ocean Choice International, Newfoundland Resources Ltd. and Whitecap International Seafood Exporters.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is interested in developing markets for seal in China but market access for some seal products is still restrictive. The Canadian sealing industry has developed a long-term marketing strategy and has invested in a multi-year program to promote and market seal oil, meat and fur in domestic and Asian markets.
- Newfoundland and Labrador's exports to China declined from \$1.1 billion in 2021 to \$0.7 billion in 2024. Seafood products represented approximately 37 per cent (or \$258 million) of all provincial exports to China in 2024.
- Nationally, Canada exported \$1.25 billion in seafood to China in 2024. Newfoundland and Labrador accounted for 20 per cent of those exports, underscoring the Province's significant role in Canada's seafood trade with China.
- Within the Province's 2024 seafood exports to China, crab represented \$49 million, and lobster accounted for approximately \$6.6 million, together making up 21 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's seafood export value to China. This means that 79 per cent of the Province's seafood exports to China in 2024 came from shrimp (\$105 million), halibut (\$36 million) and clam (\$27 million). See Annex B for a detailed breakdown by species.
- The Sea Cucumber (Frozen) industry was unable to proceed in 2025 due to the impacts of Chinese tariffs. In 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador exported \$3.4 million to China making up approximately 13 per cent of Canada's Sea Cucumber (Frozen) exports to China.

Additional background:

- In 2001, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Zhejiang Province in China, designed to strengthen cooperation in the areas of education, culture, fisheries, aquaculture and general economic development. The MOU was re-signed in 2013 during a provincial trade mission to China.

- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(iii)
- In 2018, the Province participated in an Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS) mission to China to support existing trade ties, attract investment and enhance partnerships.
- Various sectors in the province have been connected with the Chinese market, such as ocean tech, tourism, fisheries and other natural resource-based industries. s. 29(1)(a)
- [REDACTED]
- Newfoundland and Labrador has a wide variety of mineral commodities including iron ore, nickel, copper and cobalt, gold, fluorspar, antimony, and other critical minerals. Newfoundland and Labrador also possess world class deposits for iron ore, nickel and base metals which have attracted investment by leading international mining companies, including Rio Tinto, Tata Steel, and Vale. s. 37(1)(b)
- Newfoundland and Labrador and China have had strong post-secondary education ties. In 2025, there were approximately [REDACTED] students enrolled across multiple post-secondary institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2025.

ANNEX B
Seafood Exports to China by Species (2024)

HS Code	Seafood product (description)	Value (CAD)
030616	Cold-water shrimps & prawns, frozen (in shell or not)	105,102,436
030614	Crabs, frozen (in shell or not)	49,003,151
030331	Halibut, frozen	36,130,429
030772	Clams, cockles and ark shells, frozen	27,175,388
030334	Turbots, frozen	11,580,008
030359	Pelagic species (n.e.s.), frozen	10,152,274
030612	Lobsters, frozen	6,202,415
030399	Fish fins/heads/tails/maws & other edible fish offal, frozen	3,582,638
030812	Sea cucumbers, frozen	2,664,289
030799	Molluscs & aquatic invertebrates (n.e.s.), incl. flours/meals/pellets	1,767,770
030760	Snails (excluding sea snails), live/fresh/chilled/frozen/dried/salted	1,463,568
030792	Molluscs (n.e.s.), frozen	1,427,293
030819	Sea cucumbers, frozen/dried/salted/in brine or smoked	761,222
030221	Halibut, fresh or chilled	603,328
030632	Lobsters, live/fresh/chilled	395,040
030732	Mussels, frozen	130,686
TOTAL	Total seafood exports to China	258,115,935

Source: Statistics Canada

Meeting Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat
Meeting with the High Commissioner of India to Canada
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Confederation Building – 8th Floor, East Block

Participants:

- The Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
- His Excellency Dinesh Patnaik, High Commissioner of India to Canada
- Mr. Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh, Acting Consul General of India in Toronto

Purpose of the Meeting:

- This is the first official visit to Newfoundland and Labrador by High Commissioner Patnaik (see Annex A for bio), who was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to Canada in August 2025. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Background and Current Status:

- India is the world's most populous country and largest democracy, with a population exceeding 1.4 billion. Its capital is New Delhi, and its government operates as a federal system comprised of 28 states and 8 union territories.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, representing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has been in office since May 2014 and most recently secured a third term following the June 2024 general elections.
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) notes that India was the fastest growing major economy in 2024, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.5 per cent. It is currently the world's fourth largest economy, with a GDP of US\$3.91 trillion (\$5.43 trillion CAD). India's economy is heavily influenced by a robust service industry, with primary strengths in information technology, financial services, telecommunications, and healthcare.
- In 2023, Prime Minister Modi launched "Viksit Bharat", the Indian government's vision and mission to transform India into a developed entity characterized by economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance by the year 2047, coinciding with its 100th anniversary of independence. There are six pillars: (1) making India a global manufacturing hub, (2) reviving Indian knowledge systems, (3) ensuring global presence of Indian products, (4) powering green energy, (5) expanding tourism, and (6) promoting inclusive global development

Canada-India Relations

- GAC advises that Canada and India share more than 75 years of diplomatic relations, a long history of cooperation and are connected by growing people-to-people ties with a vision for a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

- GAC notes that India is Canada's largest source country for most immigration categories, including 392,810 study permit holders with Indian citizenship in Canada in 2024. As of the 2021 federal census, there are more than 1.8 million Canadians of Indian origin. India is also the largest source of foreign students; as of 31 December 2024, there were 392,810 study permits holders from India in Canada.
- In 2024, India was Canada's seventh-largest goods and services trading partner, with two-way trade coming to \$30.9 billion CAD. In that year, Canada's merchandise exports to India were \$5.3 billion CAD, increasing by 3.3 per cent from 2023, and Canada's service exports were \$16.1 billion CAD.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- [REDACTED]

- Canada continues to provide international assistance to India through multilateral programs; partnerships between Indian and Canadian NGOs and academic institutions; and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. In fiscal year 2023-2024, Canada provided \$39.41 million CAD in international assistance to India via all channels.
- At the 2025 G7 Summit, in Kananaskis, Alberta, Prime Minister Carney and Prime Minister Modi signaled a joint commitment to reset bilateral relations. This led to the official reinstatement of High Commissioners for both countries and the launch of official public consultations for trade talks in December of 2025.
- Negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada formally resumed in late 2025 [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- India is represented in Canada by a High Commission in Ottawa and by Consulates General in Toronto and Vancouver.

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Trade and Business Partnerships

- In 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador exports to India totaled approximately \$41.3 million CAD, with newsprint (including that produced by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper) being the province's leading export to India, accounting for nearly 87 per cent of total exports and valued at \$35.9 million CAD. India is the largest market for Newfoundland and Labrador's newsprint.
- Imports from India sharply declined in 2024 to approximately \$422,000 CAD, down nearly 64 per cent from \$1.17 million CAD in 2023, mainly as a result of reduced imports of industrial, chemical and mechanical goods. See **Annex C** for trade statistics.
- In 2024, India was the Province's 18th largest trading partner, accounting for 0.3 per cent of its exports.

Analysis:

- The Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development (JGRD) advises that Rutter Inc., a local company that develops radar and advanced radar signal processing technologies for

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

marine safety, security, and environmental monitoring and protection industries, sold their first wave and surface current monitoring system in India in 2018. Rutter has also presented at the Oil Spill India conference, [REDACTED]

- In 2021, Kraken Robotics acquired PanGeo Subsea, a marine geophysical-geotechnical service delivery company specializing in high resolution 3D acoustic imaging solutions which previously worked with India.

•

s. 29(1)(a)

Education

- Through the College of the North Atlantic (CNA)'s Global brand, CNA assists foreign institutions and governments to enhance the capacity of their educational systems. CNA's international training initiatives have included partnerships in many countries, including India.
- Memorial University has also established partnerships with ten post-secondary institutions in India. These partnerships focus on broad collaboration, as well as student exchanges and study abroad programs, scholarships for Indian graduate students, and faculty visits to Indian universities.

Analysis:

s. 37(1)(b)

s. 37(1)(b)

- According to FECD, [REDACTED] are studying at 15 CNA campuses across the province in [REDACTED] of which are studying in business and IT programs. [REDACTED] are studying at MUN.

s. 37(1)(b)

Immigration and Recruitment Efforts

- According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), 957,218 individuals from India have become permanent residents (PRs) of Canada since 2014. During this same timeframe, 4,989 individuals from India have become PRs in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- According to IRCC, there were 59,026 Temporary Foreign Worker Program work permit holders and 401,767 International Mobility Program work permit holders in Canada from India as of December 31, 2024. IRCC reported that there were 114 Temporary Foreign Workers with a valid work permit and 1,353 International Mobility Program work permit holders from India residing in Newfoundland and Labrador as of December 31, 2024.

Analysis:

- JGRD advises that since the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Nominee Program (NLPNP) began in 2007, the Province has nominated 4,514 individuals (including principal applicants and dependents) from India for PR and since the Atlantic Immigration Program (AIP) began in 2017, the Province has endorsed 4,668 individuals from India for PR.
- Since 2023, JGRD, the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) and NL Health Services (NLHS) have collaborated to attract, recruit, and retain Registered Nurses (RNs) from India. This work included signing two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on labour transfer with TOMCOM (a state-run agency under the Government of Telangana, India) and NORKA Roots (a state-run agency under the Government of Kerala, India) in June 2023. Each MOU is for a term of five years. HCS advises that 248 RNs have arrived and begun working in Newfoundland and Labrador under these MOUs.

- JGRD completed recruitment missions in Kochi and Kerala in India in 2023 and 2024. Since June 2023, JGRD has processed 305 applications from RNs that arrived through India recruitment missions through provincial pathways. All of these RNs were confirmed to have job offers with NLHS, including 65 for the Eastern region, 108 for the Central region, 112 for the Western region, and 20 for the Labrador-Grenfell Region.
- The Province provides supports to help ensure a smooth transition for internationally educated nurses from India. This includes relocation and settlement supports through a bilateral agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), inclusive of three months of wrap-around support for nurses from India (accommodations, food, childcare, transportation), along with reimbursement for fees associated with licensure. Other supports provided outside of this bilateral agreement include relocation reimbursement.
- The College of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador has also designated India on their designated countries list for expedited licensure processing.

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Energy

- Newfoundland and Labrador has an abundance of oil, natural gas, hydroelectricity and wind resources, as well as the potential to supply energy from other sources such as uranium, biomass, wave and tidal. This substantial inventory of energy sources makes the province an energy powerhouse that can meet its own energy needs while providing significant energy for export to other jurisdictions where energy demand also continues to grow.
- In 2023, the Province allocated \$6 million to support research and development initiatives aimed at advancing Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies. It was designed to fund projects across two streams, accelerating offshore decarbonization through the application of CCUS technologies and demonstrating the feasibility of carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore, utilizing both locally and externally sourced CO₂.

Analysis:

- [REDACTED]
- Newfoundland and Labrador has made significant progress positioning the oil and gas sector to meet the world's energy needs during the energy transition, as demonstrated by increasingly improved emissions intensity over time, with a 31 per cent reduction in upstream carbon intensity since 2015.
- The Province has been conducting a natural gas resource assessment to determine the potential for natural gas in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is estimated that there are 9.7 trillion cubic feet (tcf) in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin region (2025 Natural Gas Resource Assessment) and 4.24 tcf in offshore Labrador (published by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator (C-NLOER), indicating significant economic potential.
- Offshore energy and carbon management projects (renewables and CCUS) differ significantly from similar onshore projects with offshore having a limited footprint, remoteness, much higher capital costs and lead times for development, as well as regulatory and fiscal challenges.

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

Critical Minerals

- Newfoundland and Labrador is home to 34 identified critical minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt, manganese, and high-grade, low-impurity iron ore essential for producing low-carbon steel used in wind turbines, electric vehicles, and other renewable energy infrastructure.
- In July 2023, India unveiled its list of 30 critical minerals. India's government continues to rely heavily on imports for many critical minerals, with 100 per cent reliance for key minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, vanadium, niobium, germanium, rhenium, beryllium, tantalum, and strontium. Newfoundland and Labrador has 21 of India's 30 critical minerals.
- The Department of Energy and Mines (EM) advises that India is a major global mining and metals producer, ranking as the world's second-largest producer and consumer of steel, and among the top global producers of zinc and iron ore, with a mining sector that includes several state-owned enterprises alongside large private operators.
- Market forecast indicates that India's iron ore production could decline modestly to about 235 million tonnes by 2030 due to the planned closure of several iron ore mines over the period, although some new projects are expected to partially offset closures. This projection reflects a decline in production over 2024–2030.
- The steel sector currently accounts for about 12 per cent of India's CO2 emissions. India has set aggressive growth targets but has also started to decarbonize the steel sector, including the National Green Hydrogen Mission to promote the use of green hydrogen in steelmaking.

Analysis:

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- EM advises that in March 2025, the department's Deputy Minister met with Mr. Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary (Mines), Government of India at PDAC, to discuss Newfoundland and Labrador's mining industry with the Consulate General of India.
- EM advises that Tata Steel India is among the top global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of 34 million tonnes and 65,000 employees. Tata is the tenth largest steel producer in the world and is striving to reduce emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality in its steelmaking by 2050.
- Tata Steel Minerals Canada (TSMC) is a joint venture between Tata Steel India (82 per cent) and Resources Quebec (18 per cent). TSMC operates an iron ore (59 per cent Fe) mine in the Menihék region of Labrador. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

- Newfoundland and Labrador has existing high-purity iron ore production and developing projects (Julienne Lake and Kami Iron Mine Partnership) that can facilitate lower emissions in

existing steel manufacturing. This type of ore, when combined with hydrogen in steelmaking, can reduce emissions by up to 95 per cent.

Potential Speaking Points:

- It is a pleasure to meet with you today and welcome you to our beautiful province.
- Newfoundland and Labrador continues to build academic and business partnerships with India. For example, through our ongoing collaboration with the State of Kerala through Norka Roots, and state of Telangana through the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Ltd. (TOMCOM) 248 RNs have arrived and begun working in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- There are many opportunities to strengthen ties between our jurisdictions including through trade and business partnerships and energy and critical minerals collaboration.
- Our Province is a key player in the energy and critical minerals sectors given the province's abundance of oil, natural gas, hydroelectricity and wind resources, and potential to supply energy from other sources like uranium, biomass, hydrogen, wave, and tidal.
- We have tremendous critical mineral potential in the province with 34 identified critical minerals identified; 21 of which are included on India's list of 30 critical minerals. Newfoundland and Labrador's critical minerals list is built on collaboration, recognizing that it is necessary to form strategic partnerships. Newfoundland and Labrador mineral resources, such as high-purity iron ore, nickel, and copper, can support partnerships in India and beyond.
- The global demand for critical minerals remains strong. The energy transition, defence, and advanced manufacturing sectors continue to drive the need for secure, responsible, and diversified supply chains. Newfoundland and Labrador is well-positioned to support these needs, offering stable, ethical, and strategically located mineral resources to global markets.
- Our energy sector is supported by a world class supply and service sector, innovative businesses, and leading academic institutions.
- Our rapidly advancing technology sector is a growing source of international partnerships. Our expertise in health tech and life sciences, seabed mapping, maritime safety, and simulation are at the forefront of innovation and may be of particular interest to India.
- I look forward to our continued discussions and collaboration.

Prepared/Reviewed By: J. Bonnell/ C. Kenny/ J. Dredge/ A. Ledwell / J. Barnes
(in consultation with JGRD, EECD, HCS, EM)

Approved By: G. Skinner, DM



s. 40(1)

January 19, 2026

ANNEX A

Biographies

HIS EXCELLENCY DINESH PATNAIK, High Commissioner of India to Canada



Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik is a career diplomat of the Indian Foreign Service with over 35 years of distinguished experience across a wide range of challenging assignments. He has served in Indian Missions in Geneva, Dhaka, Beijing, and Vienna, and at the Ministry of External Affairs Headquarters in the Europe West, External Publicity, Africa, and UN Divisions. From 2009 to 2012, he was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Vienna, before serving as India's Ambassador to Cambodia (2012–2015) and to the Kingdom of Morocco (2015–2016). He later held the position of Deputy High Commissioner of India to London (2016–2018), followed by key roles as Additional Secretary (Indian Ocean Region) from November 2018 to July 2019, and Additional Secretary (CPV & OIA) from July 2019 to January 2020.

He also served as Director-General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Most recently, prior to his current posting, Shri Patnaik was Ambassador of India to Spain and Andorra from January 2022 to September 2025. An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata, he holds a Master's in Business Administration, a Master's degree in Advanced International Studies from the University of Vienna, and a Certificate in International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna. He is married to Poonam, an international educator, and together they have two daughters.

MR. KAPIDHWAJA PRATAP SINGH, Acting Consul General of India in Toronto

A Career Diplomat with the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Kapidhwaja specialises in handling India's diplomatic engagements with its key partner countries, with focus on political and commercial sectors. He is the Acting Consul General of India in Toronto. He has served in Indian Embassies in Kathmandu and Paris and handled foreign policy matters related to Maldives. Kapidhwaja has prior corporate experience and holds an MBA from Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. He is trained in French from the Sorbonne University, Paris.

ANNEX C**NL – India Direct Trade Overview (2024)****Exports**

Rank	HS6 Code	Product Description	Export Value (CAD)
1	480100	Newsprint, in rolls or sheets	35,856,025
2	750210	Nickel, not alloyed	4,394,386
3	760200	Waste and scrap, of aluminum	457,358
4	848330	Bearing housings; plain shaft bearings	286,016
5	901580	Surveying, hydrographic, oceanographic & geophysical instruments, nes	142,712
Total (All Products)			41,309,280

NL Total Exports — Latest 5 Years

Destination / Total	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
India	103,817,000	58,216,000	76,604,000	53,734,000	41,309,000
Others	10,415,617,000	14,403,262,000	15,818,134,000	12,396,008,000	13,852,728,000
Total (All Countries)	10,519,434,000	14,461,479,000	15,894,738,000	12,449,742,000	13,894,037,000

Imports

Rank	HS6 Code	Product Description	Import Value (CAD)
1	890520	Floating or submersible drilling or production platforms	476,833,216
2	271019	Petroleum oils & oils from bituminous minerals, other than light oils, non-crude	47,825,475
3	271012	Light oils and preparations from petroleum or bituminous minerals (non-crude)	36,664,242
4	854470	Optical fibre cables, made up of individually sheathed fibres	2,973,049
5	847989	Machines and mechanical appliances, nes, having individual functions	2,871,679
Total (All Products)			654,927,643

ANNOTATED AGENDA
COF Steering Committee Videoconference
Thursday, January 22, 2025, at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. NL Time

s. 31(1)(l)

Connection Information	[Redacted]
Participants	• [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

The agenda for this meeting includes the following items:

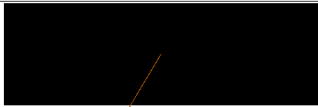
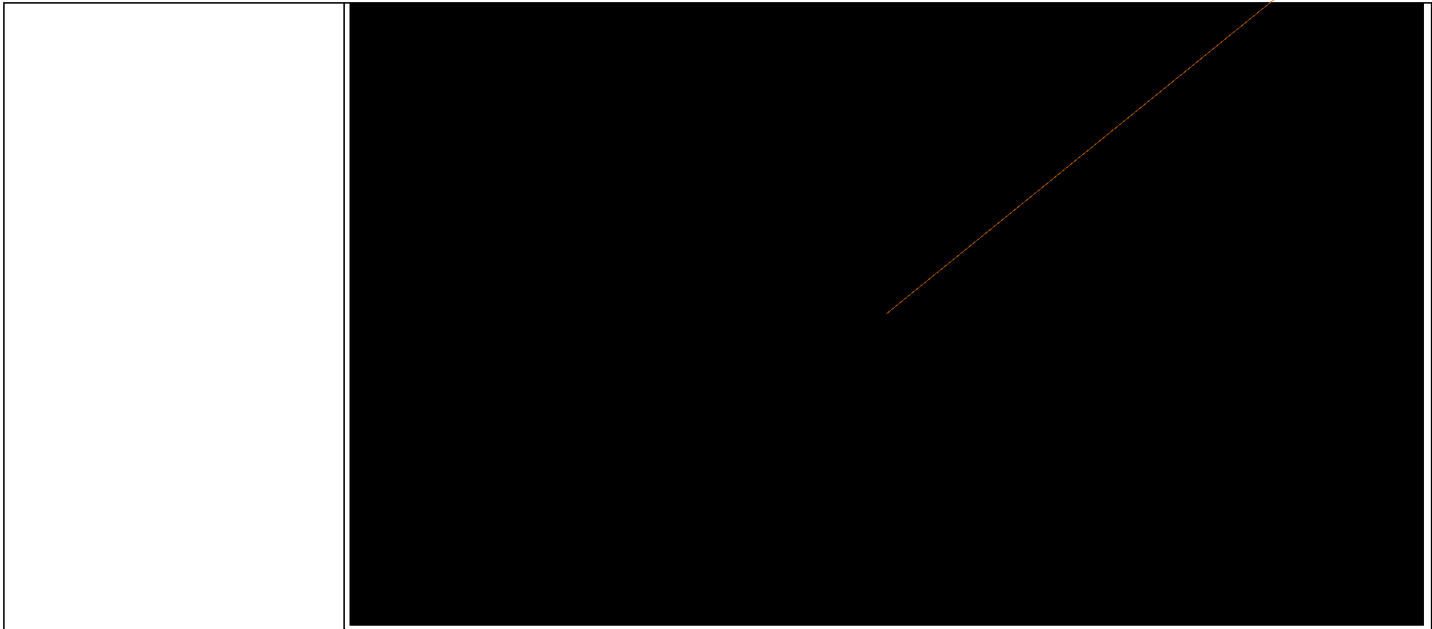
[Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE will provide opening remarks and likely ask if there are any items to add to the agenda.• There are no additional items to add from NL at this time.
[Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The COF Winter Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 from 2:00 to 4:15 p.m. It will be taking place at Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel located at 325 Dalhousie Street in Ottawa. <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted] A unimic will be available for all Premiers to use.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

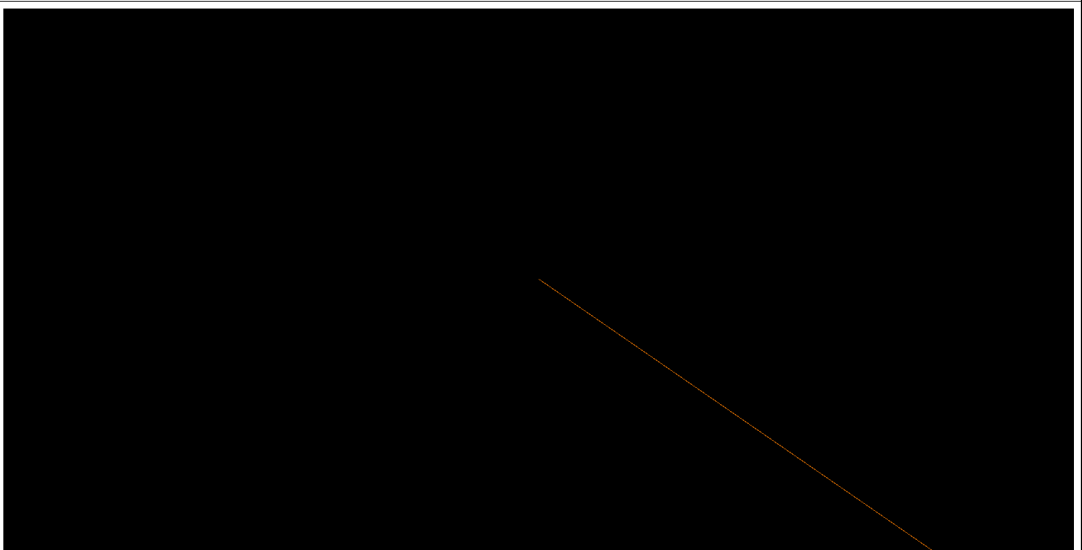
s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

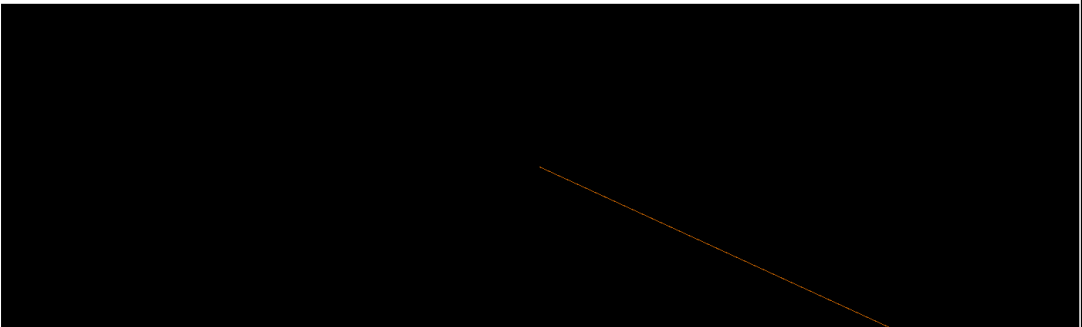


s. 34(1)(a)(i)



s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- A post-FMM news conference will be held with all First Ministers following the FMM. The time and location are to be determined.



s. 29(1)(a)

	 <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>
<p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	 <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>  <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

	<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Sales of U.S. alcohol products resumed in AB and SK in June 2025.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>
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Prepared/ Reviewed by: K. Moreno/ A. Ledwell
Approved by: J. Barnes, ADM
January 22, 2026

Annotated Agenda
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat
2026 Winter Meeting of Canada's Premiers
January 28, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. in Ottawa, ON

- This annotated agenda provides a high-level overview of the agenda and logistical information for the 2026 Winter Meeting of Canada's Premiers. Speaking points are included, along with references to additional briefing materials contained in this binder.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

- Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel located at 325 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa, ON. The hotel's phone number is 613-321-1234.

PARTICIPATION

- All Premiers will be attending the meeting. See **Tab 11** for bios.

ACCOMMODATION

- Check-in is 4:00 p.m. and check-out is at 11:00 a.m.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- All Newfoundland and Labrador delegates have accommodations at the Andaz Hotel. See **Tab 1** for the facility floorplan.

TRANSPORTATION AND SECURITY

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Ground transportation for delegates will not be provided to/from the airport, hotel, or meeting related events. Taxis and ride-sharing services are accessible.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

ITINERARY

- The Winter COF Meeting will include the following events. See the **Itinerary at a Glance (clear sleeve)** and **Tab 1** for more information.
- Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the Premiers' meeting only, not during meals.
- On-site registration will be open on Tuesday, January 27 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, January 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Lounge (second floor) of the Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel.

Tuesday, January 27

- There are no official events planned for this day.

Wednesday, January 28

- **Premiers' Meeting**

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Location: Studio 4 & Breakout Rooms, Second floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Note: Media will be present at the start of the meeting for a photo opportunity.

- **Premiers' Official Photo**

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Location: To be confirmed

Participation: All Premiers

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- **Chiefs of Staff Dinner**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Restaurant e18teen, 18 York Street, Ottawa

Participation: provincial/territorial Chiefs of Staff

- **COF Steering Committee Dinner**

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Restaurant e18teen, 18 York Street, Ottawa

Participation: provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers of intergovernmental affairs.

- **Dinner for COF Delegates**

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (at leisure)

Location: Copper Spirits & Sights, 16th floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel

Participation: provincial/territorial officials

Thursday, January 29

- **Breakfast for Premiers**

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (at leisure)

Location: Studio 4 & Breakout Rooms, Second floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel

Participation: Premiers only

- **Breakfast for Delegates**

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (at leisure)

Location: Copper Spirits & Sights, 16th floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel

Participation: all provincial/territorial officials

See **Tab 2** for the Annotated Agenda and logistical information for the FMM and press conference.

<p>MEDIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will not be a COF press conference. A unimic and Ins/Outs zone will be located in the lobby on the ground floor of the Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel on Wednesday, January 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. • Premiers' press secretaries can book specific times for Premiers to use the unimic. Paola St-Georges can be contacted at 343-961-5811 (cell) or paola@canadaspremiers.ca to schedule times.
<p>DELEGATION SUPPORT AND REGISTRATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COF Secretariat will provide meeting support services in the Lounge (second floor) from 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29. • A PT Work Room will be in Studio 1 and Breakout Rooms (second floor). • A delegates' lounge with printers and laptops will be located in Copper Spirits and Sights (16th floor) from 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29. Delegate meals will be served in this location. • Due to limited meeting and accommodation space at the Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel, delegation offices will not be available for provinces and territories (PTs) on site.

Purpose of Meeting:

- COF convenes both summer and winter meetings. [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- As current COF Chair, Prince Edward Island (PE) Premier Bloyce Thompson will chair this meeting. This marks Premier Thompson's first in-person COF meeting since being sworn in as Premier on December 12, 2025. He assumed the role as interim leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and Premier until a leadership convention is held on February 7, 2026.
- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- The FMM will take place on January 29, following the COF Winter Meeting. As COF and FMM discussions are related, a single briefing binder has been prepared that includes materials relevant to both meetings. An **Itinerary at a Glance** (see **clear sleeve**) has been prepared to outline key logistical information.

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- As the current COF Chair, PE Premier Bloyce Thompson will deliver opening remarks.
- There may be a brief introduction to recognize the recently elected premiers in Nunavut (NU), Yukon (YK), PE, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

A statement released by the federal government highlights that, as the world's second-largest economy, China presents enormous opportunities for Canada. Key outcomes from this visit include:

- advancing the Canada-China new Strategic Partnership, signaling a formal reset of the bilateral relationship;
 - This includes collaboration in energy, clean technology, and climate competitiveness. Canada will allow up to 49,000 Chinese electric vehicles into the Canadian market.
 - secured a preliminary agreement-in-principle with landmark measures to remove trade barriers and reduce tariffs;
 - By March 1, 2026, China will lower tariffs on Canadian canola seed to 15 per cent, and Canadian canola meal, lobsters, crabs, and peas will not be subject to relevant anti-discrimination tariffs from March 1, 2026, until at least the end of this year.
 - Reached consensus on a Canada-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Roadmap;
 - Discussed increasing two-way investment in clean energy and technology, agri-food, wood products, and other sectors to meet Canadian goal of increasing exports to China by 50 per cent by 2030; and,
 - Pursued pragmatic and constructive engagement in public safety and security by increasing cooperation among law enforcement agencies to better combat narcotics trafficking, transnational and cybercrime, synthetic drugs and money laundering.
- SK Premier Scott Moe participated in a portion of this mission and called the preliminary agreement-in-principle a "very, very significant decision" and has spoken positively in public about the removal or reduction of tariffs on canola.
 - Ontario (ON) Premier Doug Ford has stated that Chinese electric vehicles will harm ON's auto sector and manufacturing jobs and is urging Canadians not to purchase them. Premier Ford has also stated that ON received nothing in return from the China deal, while the federal government traded away auto-sector protection for agricultural tariff relief. Premier Ford has expressed frustration that Prime Minister Carney did not consult him before making the China deal.
 - For Newfoundland and Labrador, the tariff deal reached between Canada and China is welcome news, particularly the exemption for lobster and crab as these products represent about 21 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's seafood exports to China.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Prime Minister Carney delivered a speech at the World Economic Forum on January 20, 2026, that was met with a standing ovation. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

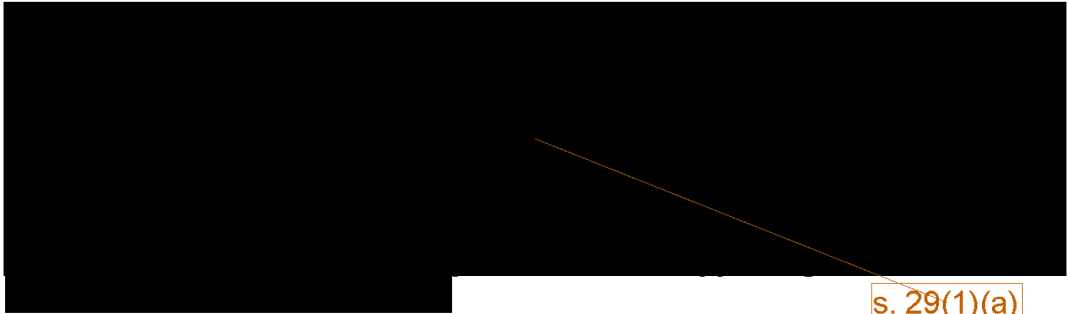
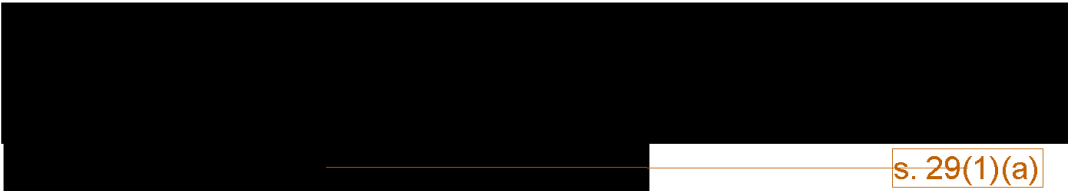

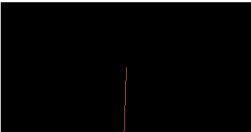

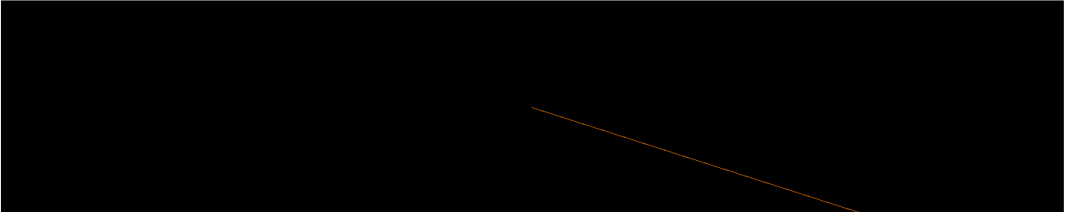
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s. 29(1)(a)

Potential Speaking Points

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Escalating geopolitical tensions underscore the importance of a predictable and stable international system for economic opportunity and security.  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to ensure Canada's sovereignty and security has never been more clear and pressing.• I look forward to working together with you and the Prime Minister to strengthen and support Canada's economy and security for all Canadians.
Break 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refreshments available.
Official Photo 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location TBC. <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>
 <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The FMM with the Prime Minister is scheduled for January 29,  See Tab 2 for the annotated agenda and logistical information for that meeting.  <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

International Trade

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Canada continues broadening its trade network beyond CUSMA through major agreements like Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), while advancing several new initiatives. Key developments include the 2025 signing of the Canada–Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), expected to take effect; the Canada–Ecuador FTA, concluded in early 2025; and December 2025 public consultations on potential trade agreements with Thailand, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Mercosur. During a November 2025 visit to the UAE, Canada signed a new Foreign Investment Protection Agreement (FIPA) and launched CEPA negotiations.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] On June 15, 2025, the UK and Canada established a structured Economic and Trade Working Group aimed to deepen the bilateral trading relationship.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Newfoundland and Labrador exports to a diverse range of international markets. While the U.S. remains the province’s primary export destination (\$6.9 billion in 2024) and the largest source of imported goods (\$940 million),

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

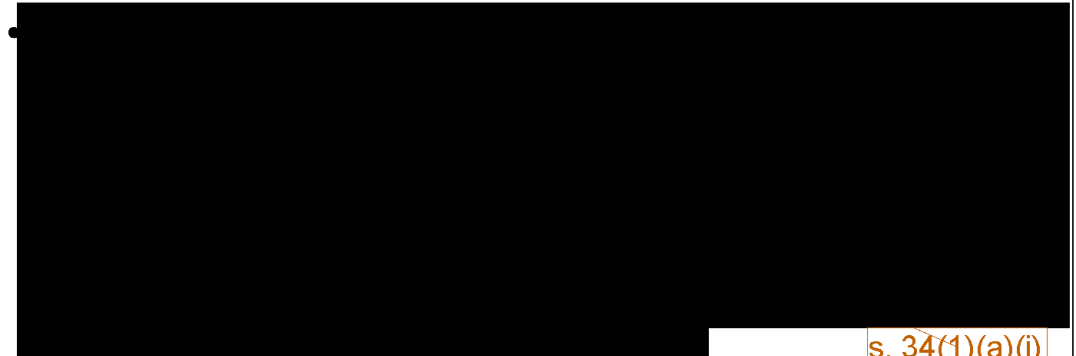
s. 29(1)(a)

- In 2025, the U.S. and Canada have taken various trade and tariff actions against each other. Canada now maintains only sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminum, and autos, while the U.S. has in place a variety of measures, such as 35 per cent tariffs on most Canadian goods and 10 per cent on energy, with CUSMA exemptions, under the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**, and 50 per cent tariffs (including derivatives) on steel and aluminum.

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

- Newfoundland and Labrador welcomes the January 2026 Canada-China trade agreement exempting lobster and crab from China's 25 per cent tariffs effective March 1, 2026, until at least the end of 2026. These products represent about 20 per cent of provincial seafood exports to China. In 2024, the province exported \$258 million in seafood to China.
- The Province continues to advocate for the federal government to proactively engage China to achieve tariff relief on other seafood products that are also of significant value to Newfoundland and Labrador, specifically shrimps, clams, and sea cucumber.

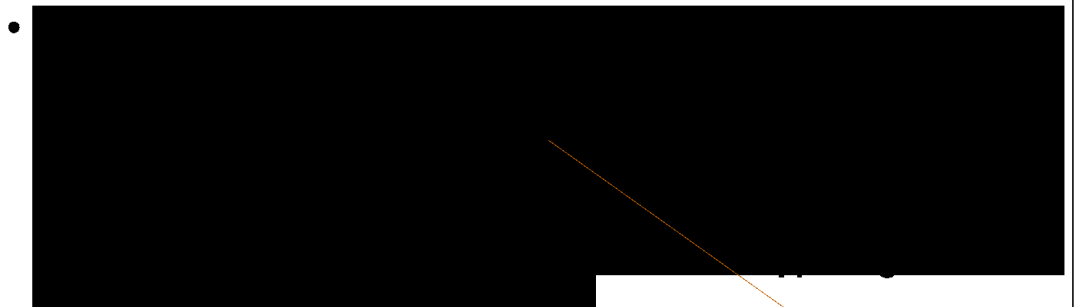


s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- See **Tab 4** for background notes on international trade and China relations.
- While international trade priorities vary among PT, commonalities have emerged because of tariff pressures and shared desire for trade diversification. For example, PTs are working to diversify trade beyond the U.S., implementing measures to mitigate the impacts of international tariffs, making investments to enable export growth and attract international investment, and engaging with the federal government to ensure PTs are reflected in international trade negotiations.

Potential Speaking Points

- **I am committed to supporting Newfoundland and Labrador businesses and industry partners as they diversify and pursue new opportunities in global markets.**
- **Through targeted programs, export-readiness supports, and strong collaboration with stakeholders, our government is helping companies build the capacity, skills, and partnerships they need to compete internationally.**
- **These efforts not only strengthen individual firms but contribute to long-term economic resilience and sustainable growth across the province.**



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iii), s. 35(1)(d)

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- **Experiencing common challenges and sharing mutual priorities create an opportunity for provinces and territories to work together to maximize benefits for all Canadians, share information and best practices, elevate our voice in the world, and shape next steps.**
- **I look forward to continuing these discussions.**

Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) Review

- The CUSMA replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on July 1, 2020, modernizing and rebalancing the trilateral trade framework. It introduced both a six-year review mechanism and a 16-year sunset clause to ensure periodic reassessment and long-term certainty.
- The first joint review is scheduled to begin on June 30, 2026. During this process, parties may propose amendments or agree by consensus to extend the agreement for another 16 years. If consensus is not achieved, annual meetings will continue throughout a 10-year sunset phase, after which CUSMA will expire on June 30, 2036, unless renewed.

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Newfoundland and Labrador will maintain an active role in the CUSMA review process, [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- See **Tab 5** for a background note on CUSMA Review.

Potential Speaking Points

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

- **Newfoundland and Labrador will take an active and constructive role in this process.**

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

One Canadian Economy

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

Internal Trade

- In early 2025, the imposition of U.S. tariffs renewed FPT interest in strengthening Canada's internal market to mitigate potential economic impacts. First Ministers agreed in January 2025 to have the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) take a focused approach to addressing remaining internal trade barriers.

- During the November 2025 CIT meeting, Ministers concluded or further advanced recommendations that were adopted by First Ministers in March 2025.

- Parties removed 30 per cent of Party-Specific Exceptions (PSEs) in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) in 2025.

- CFTA Parties signed the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods at the November meeting and announced the endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Interprovincial Trucking, [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

- The MOU for Direct-to-Consumer Alcohol Sales has been signed by 12 CFTA jurisdictions (NT and NU did not sign) and is scheduled to be operationalized by May 29, 2026.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED]
- Buy Canadian Program - Effective December 16, 2025, the federal government implemented new federal procurement rules to support Canadian workers and industries. These changes are intended to help create a strong Canadian supply chain by prioritizing Canadian suppliers and Canadian-made goods and services whenever possible, and help Canadian industries become more self-sufficient and resilient to changes in the global economy. Practically, the policy gives bidding preference to Canadian companies and requires Canadian-made materials (steel, aluminum, wood) in large federal projects whenever available. This is intended to result in more federal contracts going to Canadian suppliers, and major construction and defence projects being required to use Canadian-produced materials, with exceptions only when this would cause significant delays or when Canadian supply doesn't exist.

Potential Speaking Points

- **Positive progress has been made to improve trade and labour mobility within Canada and remove barriers, but more can be done.**
- **Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to working with provinces and territories to maintain momentum and advance practical solutions that meaningfully cut red tape, reduce delays, and lower costs for Canadians.**
- **Together, we must continue to remove barriers to internal trade and labour mobility, and Newfoundland and Labrador will be especially focused on cutting unnecessary red tape to ensure these efforts lead to real, meaningful change for Canadians.**
- **We are committed to working with jurisdictions nationwide to turn intent into action, implementing practical changes that streamline rules, eliminate unnecessary delays, and make life more affordable for Canadians.**

Major Projects

- Advancing major projects is an ongoing focus of FPT governments as a means to grow and diversify Canada's economy and mitigate the effects of tariffs imposed by the U.S.
- The Prime Minister has referred 11 projects, representing a combined investment of \$116 billion, and six potentially "transformative strategies" requiring further development to the Major Projects Office (MPO) for consideration. To date, no project has received designation under the **Building Canada Act**.
- Of the projects and strategies announced, four are related to BC, three to ON, three to QC, one to SK, one to NB, and one to NU. All PTs are included in the critical minerals strategy and Atlantic Canada is included in the reference to the Wind West Atlantic Energy strategy.

s. 29(1)(a)

• [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- Premiers highlighted Canada's diverse energy landscape at the Summer COF Meeting in July 2025, noting they are dedicated to working alongside the Prime Minister in positioning Canada as a global energy superpower.

Potential Speaking Points

- **Newfoundland and Labrador is ready to work with the federal government to unlock opportunities that strengthen our economy, advance energy and national security, and build resilience across regions.**

s. 29(1)(a)

[Redacted]

Cooperation Agreements

- During the 2025 Summer COF Meeting in July, Premiers welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to ensuring all federal environmental assessment (EA) decisions are rendered within two years and insisted the "one project, one review" process must eliminate overlap and duplication and defer to PT jurisdictions and processes.

- To date, three cooperation agreements have been signed: NB (December 16, 2025), ON (December 18, 2025), and BC (2019). Public consultations have also been completed on draft agreements with MB and PE. As part of the MOU signed with Canada on November 27, 2025, to strengthen energy collaboration and build a stronger, more competitive and sustainable economy, AB has committed to negotiating a cooperation agreement on or before April 1, 2026.

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- See Tab 6 for a background note on cooperation agreements.

Potential Speaking Points

- **Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to progressing projects of national significance through enhanced cooperation with the federal government and to exploring ways to streamline decision making while respecting Indigenous rights and the protection of people and the environment.**

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- The federal government has announced significant defence funding for NORAD modernization efforts, rebuilding the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), rearming Canada, Arctic sovereignty, developing a national Defence Industrial Strategy, and meeting NATO defence spending targets.
- In 2025, the federal government also announced funding and international partnerships with Australia to build an early warning radar system along the Canada-U.S. border into the Arctic, as well as a strategic defence and security partnership with the European Union (EU) to allow Canadian companies to participate in the \$1.25 trillion ReArm Europe program.
- Media has also reported that the Minister of National Defence stated Canada is talking with the U.S. about a continental shield as part of a commitment under NORAD modernization to explore air and missile defence capabilities.
- Most recently, federal Budget 2025 announced the development of a Defence Industrial Strategy to improve access to capital, drive research and development, bolster domestic supply chains, and grow critical resource stockpiles. Under this new strategy, Canada's defence investments will be guided by a whole-of-government approach to building sovereign defence capacity.

- With the intense focus on national security and sovereignty, particularly in the Arctic, there will continue to be opportunities to advocate for Newfoundland and Labrador's capacity to play a key role, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Federal investment in dual-use infrastructure can both help protect the country and support the well-being of northern communities.
- Newfoundland and Labrador has a variety of capacities to support Canada's sovereignty and security ranging including: a strategic location at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains; world-class expertise in cold and harsh environments; industry capacity and robust innovation ecosystem; skilled workforce and training institutions; abundant natural resources; supporting infrastructure; and key military installations to Canadian and international defence.
- Canada's Premiers have long recognized the importance of sovereignty and security in Canada's Arctic and have commended the Prime Minister for commitments to meeting NATO's defence spending targets.
- At their 2025 Summer COF Meeting, Premiers acknowledged that positioning Canada as a global energy superpower is an opportunity for Canada to further strengthen sustainable Arctic defence and sovereignty, coordinated with PTs and Indigenous partners, that will address the acknowledged infrastructure gap in the North. Premiers were united that federal actions related to Arctic security and sovereignty must be done with northerners and Indigenous peoples and directly benefit the communities in which they live. Premiers continue to emphasize the benefit and importance of dual-use infrastructure in this area. Investments made in Arctic sovereignty are investments made for the security of all Canadians.
- See **Tab 7** for a background note on defense and military affairs.

Potential Speaking Points

- **With growing uncertainty, evolving international alliances, and increasing federal defence spending, we must stay vigilant to the potential impacts on provinces and territories, and broader security and sovereignty of Canada.**
- **We must continue to advocate to the Prime Minister for the inclusion of all provinces and territories in the federal government's plans for increased defence spending, enhanced partnerships with global allies, and the ongoing strengthening of the Canadian Armed Forces.**
- **For Newfoundland and Labrador, our geography places us close to international shipping lanes and northern sea routes. Our world-class experience and expertise in cold and harsh environments is unique, our infrastructure is ready to support growing activity, and our abundance of natural resources, including critical minerals, will play a key role moving forward.**

- **Our military installations already play a significant role in Canadian and international defence, including support for NORAD, NATO, and Canada's allies.**
- **5 Wing Goose Bay in Labrador is not only strategically located in Canada's North but its vast training area has also provided support to numerous joint and combined Canadian and Allied military operations, including low-level and supersonic flight training, as well as sub-arctic ground and winter warfare exercises.**
- **This past Fall, the Commander of NORAD reaffirmed the vital role of 5 Wing Goose Bay in protecting North American airspace, recognizing it as a key Forward Operating Location.**
- **All this combined enables Newfoundland and Labrador to serve as a strategic anchor for Canada and its allies at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains.**

Electricity Policy

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- The generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Canada falls primarily under PT jurisdiction. The federal government has a supporting role by investing in research and development, developing regulations, and supporting the commercialization of new technologies.
- In recent years, the federal government has implemented measures with an aim to help build a clean, reliable, and affordable electricity sector, such as the Clean Electricity Regulations (CERs), along with \$60 billion to advance decarbonizing the electricity system as part of the Clean Economy Plan, which is primarily comprised of Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) and Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) financing and targeted programming, including the Smart Renewables Electrification Program.
- In December 2024, the federal government released the Clean Electricity Strategy outlining the key actions that Canada, in collaboration with PTs, Indigenous partners, utilities, workers, and others, will pursue to decarbonize, expand, and modernize the electricity system.
- The CERs came into force January 1, 2025. The CERs are a key component of Canada's climate strategy, designed to achieve a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 through Annual Emissions Limits and to contribute to economy-wide net-zero emissions by 2050.
 - Some PTs, such as AB and SK, have argued the CERs are unconstitutional and infringe on provincial jurisdiction. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

- Electrification and a national electricity strategy [REDACTED] Prime Minister Carney's effort to position Canada as an energy superpower. Cooperation with PTs and Indigenous partners will be required.

s. 29(1)(a)

- Premier Wakeham, through the “For all of Us” document, has committed to publish a comprehensive 10-year Energy Plan to guide the development of both renewable and non-renewable resources, including oil, natural gas, mining, hydro, wind, solar, and tidal energy, in an environmentally responsible manner.
- See **Tab 8** for a background note on Electricity Policy.

Potential Speaking Points

- **Newfoundland and Labrador is a true energy leader—home to world-class oil and gas resources, abundant critical minerals, vast hydroelectric capacity, significant wind energy potential, and exceptional opportunities for renewable energy development.**
- **We also have several strategic advantages, including:**
 - **proximity to key energy markets in the U.S. and transcontinental shipping lanes**
 - **deep-sea, year-round, ice-free ports**
 - **world-class wind, water, and land resources**
 - **research and development capacity through our post-secondary institutions**
 - **a well-established service and supply sector that has been supporting the offshore for decades**
 - **a skilled workforce experienced in large-scale construction in harsh environments.**
- **Building on these strategic advantages, my government will develop a comprehensive 10-year Energy Plan to guide the development of both renewable and non-renewable resources, including oil, natural gas, mining, hydro, wind, solar, and tidal energy, in an environmentally responsible manner.**

- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Community Safety

- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- At the June 2025, FMM, First Ministers underscored the importance of collaborative action to ensure community safety and security. As a result, First Ministers tasked FPT Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) with developing an action plan to advance these priorities for review at a future meeting.

- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

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s. 29(1)(a)

- The safety of Canadians was an important issue at Premier's 2025 Summer COF Meeting in July. Premiers discussed the federal government's commitment to bail reform and collaboration to address the issue of repeat and violent offending with legislative and law enforcement measures as well as efforts on a range of interconnected issues, including poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and mental health. Premiers called for the federal government to amend the Criminal Code in a continued effort to ensure meaningful bail reform and work with provinces and territories to measure the impact of these changes. Premiers also reaffirmed the need to review risk assessment for sentencing and post-incarceration release of repeat sex offenders and individuals charged with intimate partner violence and gender-based violence crimes.

-

s. 29(1)(a)

- The RCMP serves as the police of jurisdiction in most provinces, the territories, 150 municipalities, and approximately 600 Indigenous communities. The RCMP currently provides policing to 82 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's geography and 56 percent of its population, particularly in rural and remote areas.

-

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- See **Tab 9** for a background note on Community Safety.

Potential Speaking Points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring safer communities and that our residents feel safe is a key priority for Newfoundland and Labrador and was a commitment in our recent election platform.• [Redacted]• [Redacted]
<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• [Redacted]• [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [Redacted] The Province also shares concerns with shortfalls resulting from ELCC agreements with the federal government. The Province was one of the first to reach \$10-a-day childcare in 2023 [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [Redacted] <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>

<p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the opportunity arise for Premiers to discuss other issues, this may be an opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador to [REDACTED] <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In February and March of 2025, four PTs (BC, MB, PE, YK) signed bilateral pharmacare agreements with the federal government totalling nearly \$929 million. This is 62 per cent of the \$1.5 billion (over five years) committed in federal Budget 2024 to support the launch of national pharmacare and coverage for contraception and diabetes medications.• In November 2025, the federal Minister of Health noted in a CBC interview that Budget 2025 protected the allocation for existing agreements but that there are no active negotiations or new deals with other PTs for pharmacare expansion at this time.
<p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Premier Thompson will deliver closing remarks and summarize next steps.

Prepared/ Reviewed by: K. Moreno/ A. Ledwell/ M. Janes/ J. Barnes

Approved by: Gillian Skinner, DM

January 25, 2026

**Annotated Agenda
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat
First Ministers' Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Ottawa, ON**

- This annotated agenda provides a high-level overview of the agenda and logistical information for the First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) taking place on January 29 in Ottawa, Ontario (ON). Speaking points are included, along with references to additional briefing materials contained in this binder.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

LOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room 100, Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St, Ottawa, ON
PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prime Minister and all Premiers will be attending.
ACCOMMODATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premiers are staying at the Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market Hotel at 325 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa. • Check-in is at 4:00 p.m. and check-out is at 11:00 a.m. s. 34(1)(a)(i) • [REDACTED] • All Newfoundland and Labrador delegates have accommodations at the Andaz Hotel.
TRANSPORTATION AND SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i) • Ground transportation for delegates will not be provided to/from the airport, hotel, or meeting related events. Taxis and ride-sharing services are accessible. • [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i) • Premiers will enter through the main front door entrance with stairs. Registered members of their delegations will also enter via the main front door entrance with stairs. Premiers and their delegations are invited to arrive for 8:00 a.m.
ITINERARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FMM will include the following events. See the Itinerary at a Glance (clear sleeve) and Tab 2 for more information. • Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the FMM.

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

○

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

○ **Chiefs of Staff Dinner**Time: 6:30 p.m.Location: Restaurant e18teen, 18 York Street, OttawaParticipation: provincial/territorial Chiefs of Staff○ **COF Steering Committee Dinner**Time: 6:30 p.m.Location: Restaurant e18teen, 18 York Street, OttawaParticipation: provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers of intergovernmental affairs.○ **Dinner for COF Delegates**Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (at leisure)Location: Copper Spirits & Sights, 16th floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market HotelParticipation: provincial/territorial officials**Thursday, January 29, 2026**○ **Breakfast for Premiers**Time: 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (at leisure)Location: Studio 4 & Breakout Rooms, Second floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market HotelParticipation: Premiers onlyNote: Premiers will depart via private vehicles for the FMM at 7:45 a.m.○ **Breakfast for Delegates**Time: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (at leisure)Location: Copper Spirits & Sights, 16th floor, Andaz Ottawa ByWard Market HotelParticipation: all provincial/territorial officials○ **First Ministers' Meeting**Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.Location: Sir John A. Macdonald Building, 144 Wellington St, Ottawa, ON

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

○ **First Ministers' Official Photo**Time: TBCLocation: TBCParticipation: First Ministers○ **Press Conference**Time: 3:30 p.m. (TBC)Location: TBC

	<p><u>Participation:</u> First Ministers</p>
<p>MEDIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a press conference at 3:30 p.m. (TBC), with location TBC. • A media scrum area will be set up in the building for provinces and territories to access. For all inquiries related to media, please contact Audrey Champoux (Audrey.Champoux@pmo-cpm.gc.ca) and Laura Scaffidi (Laura.Scaffidi@pmo-cpm.gc.ca).
<p>DELEGATION SUPPORT AND REGISTRATION</p> <p>s. 31(1)(l)</p>	<p>Registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All delegation members (including Premiers) attending the meeting or entering the building must register online and provide a colour photograph. • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED] <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <p><i>Identification Pass Pick-up:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An advance tour of the venue for provinces and territories will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Please contact Philip Kuligowski Chan (philip.kuligowskichan@pmo-cpm.gc.ca) to coordinate. • Identification passes must be picked up before delegates travel to the Sir John A. Macdonald building or access will be denied by security. Passes can be picked up at 131 Queen Street, Ottawa, starting from 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. • Should you encounter any problems picking up your pass, please call Jacinthe Grandmaitre at 613-601-0632. • The COF Secretariat will be onsite to provide PT delegations with administrative support. • PT delegations have been assigned a breakout room nearby (available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST)). [REDACTED] <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>

Purpose of Meeting:

- [REDACTED]
- Before the FMM, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, there will be a Council of the Federation (COF) meeting [REDACTED]



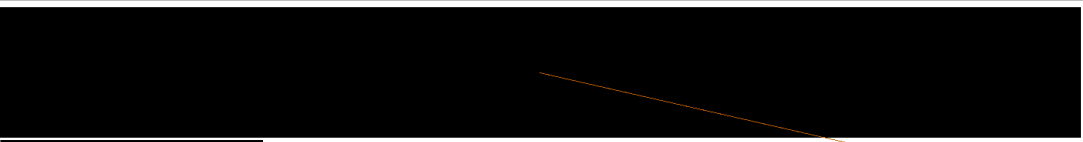
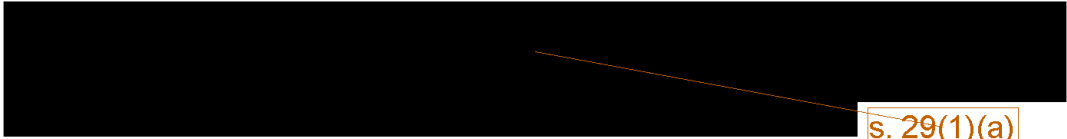
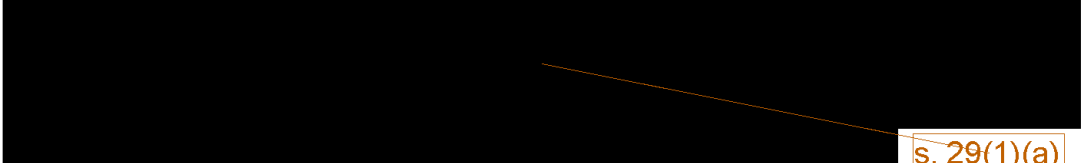
s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

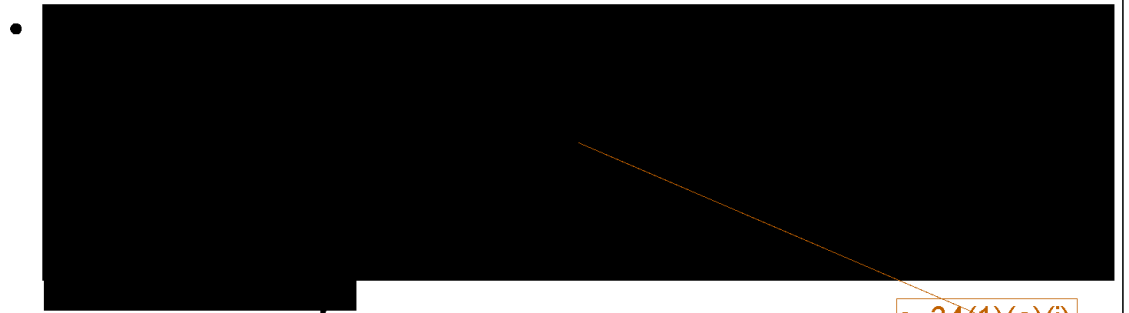
- This FMM is occurring within the context of key engagements by the Prime Minister, including:
 - international trips to China and Qatar, where the Prime Minister secured significant advancements on trade and investment;
 - the Prime Minister's speech at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland on January 20, 2026, which focused on how Canada was building strategic autonomy while maintaining values amidst the end of the rules-based international order; and,
 - a Cabinet Planning Forum held on January 22 and 23, 2026, in Quebec City, Quebec (QC), focusing on the economy, affordability and security.
- On January 22, 2026, the Prime Minister delivered a national address in advance of the Cabinet Planning Forum in QC. The speech echoed sentiments from his WEF speech, highlighting a need to build deeper, more diverse international partnerships. He also discussed commitments to protect child care, dental care and pharmacare; opportunities related to artificial intelligence (AI); and noted that the federal government will soon move forward with plans to bolster sustainability and reduce energy bills for families and businesses.
- The last FMM was held virtually on December 18, 2025. The last in-person FMM was held on June 2, 2025, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (SK).
- In December 2025, the Prime Minister spoke at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly and noted that in the new year, he would host a joint FMM with First Nations, though no further details are available at this time.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Carney will deliver opening remarks before turning it over to the COF Chair, Prince Edward Island (PE) Premier Bloyce Thompson, to do the same.
 <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> •  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p> • Newfoundland and Labrador exports to a diverse range of international markets. While the U.S. remains the province’s primary export destination (\$6.9 billion in 2024) and the largest source of imported goods (\$940 million), Newfoundland and Labrador is increasingly exploring options to diversify trade beyond North America. Emerging and key markets for the province include the United Kingdom (UK), the European Union (EU), and Asia. • In 2025, the U.S. and Canada have taken various trade and tariff actions against each other. Canada now maintains only sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminum, and autos, while the U.S. has in place a variety of measures, such as 35 per cent tariffs on most Canadian goods and 10 per cent on energy, with CUSMA exemptions, under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and 50 per cent tariffs (including derivatives) on steel and aluminum. •  <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p> • The Prime Minister has taken action to diversify Canada’s trading relationships through strategic partnerships and is continuing to advance further free trade negotiations with new partners (e.g., consulting on free trade negotiations with India, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, and Mercosur; negotiating a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); resuming negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with India). • Recent federal trade diversification and investment partnerships include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On January 18, 2026, Canada and Qatar agreed to conclude negotiations on a new Canada-Qatar Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) by this summer and work together on additional areas of mutual interest. This partnership includes a commitment from Qatar to make significant investments in Canadian nation-building projects. ○ On January 16, 2026, Canada announced a preliminary agreement-in-principle with China, which included commitments to reduce some tariff between the two countries. ○ On November 20, 2025, the Prime Minister and UAE President signed the new Canada-UAE FIPA.

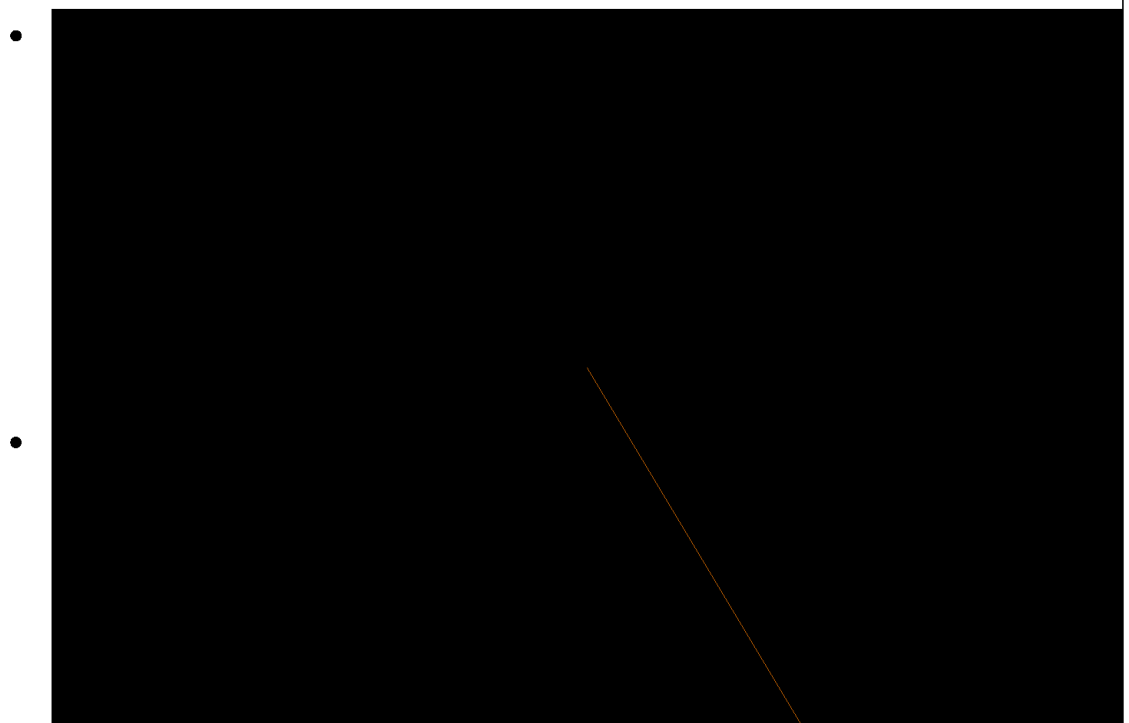
- The preliminary agreement-in-principle between Canada and China includes commitments to:
 - By March 1, 2026, Canada expects that China will lower tariffs on Canadian canola seed to a combined rate of approximately 15 per cent.
 - Canada expects that Canadian canola meal, lobsters, crabs, and peas will not be subject to relevant anti-discrimination tariffs from March 1, 2026, until at least the end of 2026.



s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- China is Newfoundland and Labrador's second largest seafood export market after the U.S., typically representing 15–20 per cent of overall seafood export value. In 2024, the province exported CAD \$258 million in seafood to China. Of that amount, crab (CAD \$49 million) and lobster (CAD \$6.6 million) accounted for 21 per cent of seafood export value to China. These are the only seafood products that benefit from the recent tariff relief announced with China.
- As a result, 79 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's 2024 seafood exports to China, primarily shrimp (CAD \$105 million), halibut (CAD \$36 million), and clams (CAD \$27 million), remain subject to China's tariffs, which has direct implications for the province's harvesters and processors.

s. 29(1)(a)



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Potential Speaking Points

- We are firmly committed to supporting Newfoundland and Labrador businesses as they pursue growth in European and Asian markets to help drive international opportunities across our energy, mining, fisheries, and technology sectors.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- I would like to express my thanks to you, Prime Minister, for securing relief that matters. With Newfoundland and Labrador being a significant Canadian seafood exporter to China, the agreement-in-principle between Canada and China is welcome news for our coastal communities.
- China has long been a critical market for our seafood sector, so we are pleased to see that lobster and crab have been identified for tariff relief beginning March 1.
- However, several other key species, including shrimp, halibut and clam, represent approximately 79 per cent of our Province's seafood exports to China.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- We understand that the announced tariff relief is expected to remain in place until at least the end of 2026.

[Redacted]

- Producers and processors will be looking for clarity and predictability. They will also need technical details on how this agreement in principle will be implemented.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

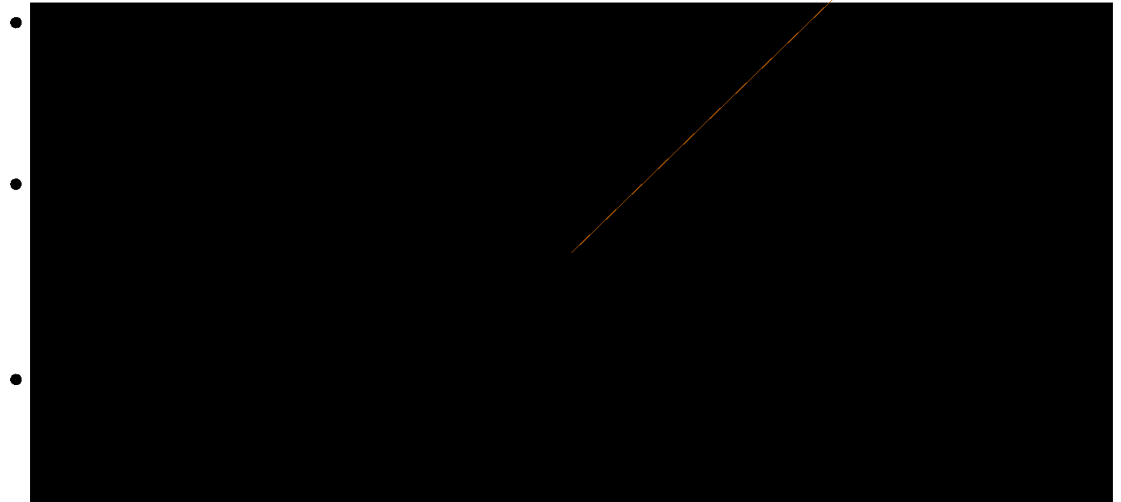
s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

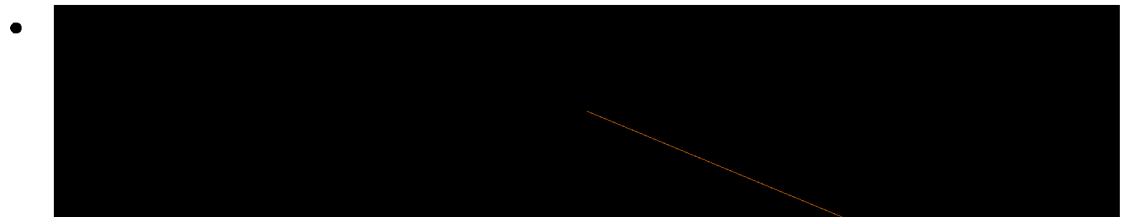
s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- The CUSMA replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on July 1, 2020, modernizing and rebalancing the trilateral trade framework. It introduced both a six-year review mechanism and a 16-year sunset clause to ensure periodic reassessment and long-term certainty.
- The first joint review is scheduled to begin on June 30, 2026. During this process, parties may propose amendments or agree by consensus to extend the agreement for another 16 years. If consensus is not achieved, annual meetings will continue throughout a 10-year sunset phase, after which CUSMA will expire on June 30, 2036, unless renewed.

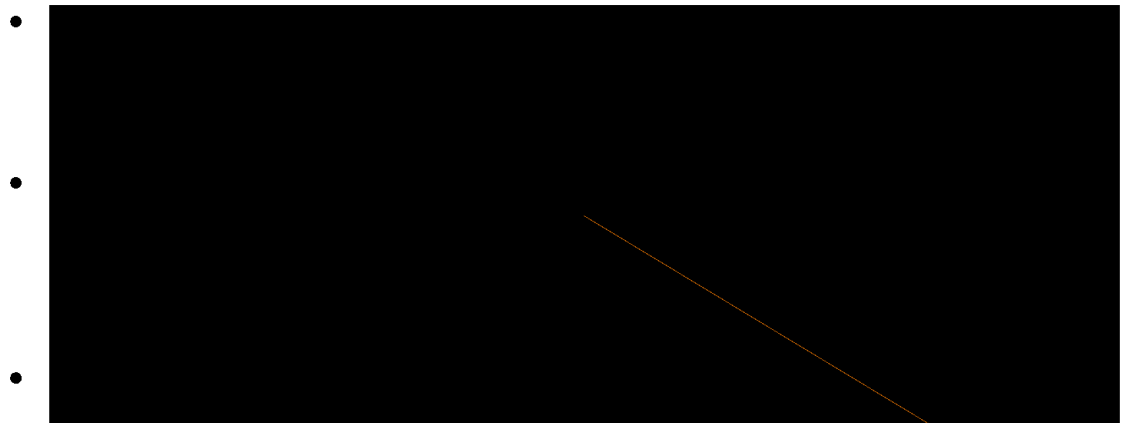
s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)



- On December 22, 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced that Mark Wiseman will become the next Ambassador to the U.S., ahead of the 2026 CUSMA review. While the ambassador's specific responsibilities in trade negotiations may evolve, the position will remain a key player in shaping and advancing Canada's interests during upcoming talks.



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)



s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

Potential Speaking Points

- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)
- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)
- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Internal Trade

- In early 2025, the imposition of U.S. tariffs renewed federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) interest in strengthening Canada's internal market to mitigate potential economic impacts. First Ministers agreed in January 2025 to have the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) take a focused approach to addressing remaining internal trade barriers.
- During the November 2025 CIT meeting, Ministers concluded or further advanced recommendations that were adopted by First Ministers in March 2025, including:
- Parties removed 30 per cent of Party-Specific Exceptions (PSEs) in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) in 2025.
- CFTA Parties signed the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods at the November meeting and announced the endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Interprovincial Trucking, [Redacted]
- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- The MOU for Direct-to-Consumer Alcohol Sales has been signed by 12 CFTA jurisdictions [Redacted] and is scheduled to be operationalized by May 29, 2026. s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Several PTs have also undertaken legislative initiatives aimed at streamlining their respective regulatory environments and signed bilateral Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) aimed at improving trade between partner jurisdictions. Newfoundland and Labrador has such an MOU with New Brunswick.

- It is noted that the federal government has removed all federal PSEs under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Potential Speaking Points

- **Together, we must continue to remove barriers to internal trade and labour mobility, and Newfoundland and Labrador will be especially focused on cutting unnecessary red tape to ensure these efforts lead to real, meaningful change for Canadians.**
- **We are committed to working with jurisdictions nationwide to turn intent into action, implementing practical changes that streamline rules, eliminate unnecessary delays, and make life more affordable for Canadians.**

Major Projects

- Advancing major projects is an ongoing focus of FPT governments as a means to grow and diversify Canada’s economy and mitigate the effects of tariffs imposed by the U.S.
- The Prime Minister has referred 11 projects, representing a combined investment of \$116 billion, and six potentially “transformative strategies” requiring further development to the Major Projects Office (MPO) for consideration. To date, no project has received designation under the **Building Canada Act**.
- Of the projects and strategies announced, four are related to BC, three to ON, three to QC, one to SK, one to NB, and one to NU. All PTs are included in the critical minerals strategy and Atlantic Canada is included in the reference to the Wind West Atlantic Energy strategy.

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- On November 27, 2025, the Prime Minister and Alberta (AB) Premier Smith signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen energy collaboration, with a focus on enabling the construction of one or more pipelines to facilitate the export of AB bitumen to Asia. Under the MOU, Canada commits to, among other things, not implementing the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap, immediately suspending the Clean Electricity Regulations in AB pending a new carbon pricing agreement and extending federal investment tax credits. BC Premier Eby and BC First Nations have expressed strong opposition to the proposal, particularly concerning potential amendments to the **Oil Tanker Moratorium Act**.
- In December 2025, media reported that John Risley's Clean Grid Atlantic, in partnership with Pattern Energy, is proposing to pursue a \$16-billion subsea and overland transmission network to connect western Newfoundland's wind resources with Hydro-Québec and U.S. markets. Risley stated that his team is in discussions with the MPO and a final investment decision expected in 12-18 months.
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Potential Speaking Points

- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)
- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)
- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a)
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted] s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Cooperation Agreements

- As part of the federal commitment to expedite major projects, the Prime Minister is striving to enter into cooperation agreements on environmental assessments (EAs) with all PTs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, three cooperation agreements have been signed: NB (December 16, 2025), ON (December 18, 2025), and BC (2019). Public consultations have also been completed on draft agreements with MB and PE. As part of the MOU signed with Canada on November 27, 2025, to strengthen energy collaboration and build a stronger, more competitive and sustainable economy, AB has committed to negotiating a cooperation agreement on or before April 1, 2026. • [REDACTED] <p style="text-align: right;">s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <p><u>Potential Speaking Points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] <p style="text-align: right;">s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] <p style="text-align: right;">s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years, First Ministers have increasingly discussed the importance of maintaining and enhancing Canada's security and sovereignty, including in the Arctic, a topic which has become more relevant within the context of recent geopolitical tensions, [REDACTED] and the U.S. military operation in Venezuela. <p style="text-align: right;">s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government has announced significant defence funding for NORAD modernization efforts, rebuilding the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), rearming Canada, Arctic sovereignty, developing a national Defence Industrial Strategy, and meeting NATO defence spending targets. • In 2025, the federal government also announced funding and international partnerships with Australia to build an early warning radar system along the Canada-U.S. border into the Arctic, as well as a strategic defence and security partnership with the European Union to allow Canadian companies to participate in the \$1.25 trillion ReArm Europe program. • Media has also reported that the Minister of National Defence stated Canada is talking with the U.S. about a continental shield as part of a commitment under NORAD modernization to explore air and missile defence capabilities. • Most recently, federal Budget 2025 announced the development of a Defence Industrial Strategy to improve access to capital, drive research and development, bolster domestic supply chains, and grow critical resource stockpiles. Under this new strategy, Canada's defence investments will be guided by a whole-of-government approach to building sovereign defence capacity. • With the intense focus on national security and sovereignty, particularly in the Arctic, there will continue to be opportunities to advocate for Newfoundland and

Labrador's capacity to play a key role.

Federal investment in dual-use infrastructure can both help protect the country and support the well-being of northern communities.

s. 29(1)(a)

- Newfoundland and Labrador has a variety of capacities to support Canada's sovereignty and security ranging including: a strategic location at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains; world-class expertise in cold and harsh environments; industry capacity and robust innovation ecosystem; skilled workforce and training institutions; abundant natural resources; supporting infrastructure; and key military installations to Canadian and international defence.
- Canada's Premiers have long recognized the importance of sovereignty and security in Canada's Arctic and have commended the Prime Minister for commitments to meeting NATO's defence spending targets.
- Premiers have acknowledged that positioning Canada as a global energy superpower is an opportunity for Canada to further strengthen sustainable Arctic defence and sovereignty, coordinated with PTs and Indigenous partners, that will address the acknowledged infrastructure gap in the North. Premiers were united that federal actions related to Arctic security and sovereignty must be done with northerners and Indigenous peoples and directly benefit the communities in which they live. Premiers continue to emphasize the benefit and importance of dual-use infrastructure in this area. Investments made in Arctic sovereignty are investments made for the security of all Canadians.

Potential Speaking Points

- [REDACTED]
- **The federal government's defence spending commitments present a prime opportunity to further develop expertise and economic development in our domestic market, while also being able to engage in global development initiatives.**
- **For Newfoundland and Labrador, our geography places us close to international shipping lanes and northern sea routes. Our world-class experience and expertise in cold and harsh environments is unique, our infrastructure ready to support growing activity, and our abundance of natural resources, including critical minerals, are critical moving forward.**
- **Our military installations already play a significant role in Canadian and international defence, including support for NORAD, NATO, and Canada's allies.**
- **5 Wing Goose Bay in Labrador is not only strategically located in Canada's North but its vast training area has also provided support to numerous joint and combined Canadian and Allied military operations, including low-level and supersonic flight training, as well as sub-arctic ground and winter warfare exercises.**

s. 29(1)(a)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This past Fall, the Commander of NORAD reaffirmed the vital role of 5 Wing Goose Bay in protecting North American airspace, recognizing it as a key Forward Operating Location. • All of this enables Newfoundland and Labrador to serve as a strategic anchor for Canada and its allies at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains. • We look forward to increased opportunities to contribute to Canada’s security and sovereignty.
<p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] • The generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Canada falls primarily under PT jurisdiction. The federal government plays a supporting role by investing in research and development, developing regulations, and supporting the commercialization of new technologies. • In recent years, the federal government has implemented measures with an aim to help build a clean, reliable, and affordable electricity sector, such as the Clean Electricity Regulations (CERs), along with \$60 billion to advance decarbonizing the electricity system as part of the Clean Economy Plan, which is primarily comprised of Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) and Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) financing and targeted programming, including the Smart Renewables Electrification Program. • In December 2024, the federal government released the Clean Electricity Strategy outlining the key actions that Canada, in collaboration with PTs, Indigenous partners, utilities, workers, and others, will pursue to decarbonize, expand, and modernize the electricity system. • Electrification and a national electricity strategy [REDACTED] Prime Minister Carney’s effort to position Canada as an energy superpower. Cooperation with PTs and Indigenous partners will be required. • The CERs came into force January 1, 2025 and are a key component of Canada’s climate strategy, designed to achieve a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 through Annual Emissions Limits and to contribute to economy-wide net-zero emissions by 2050. Some PTs, such as AB and SK, have argued the CERs are unconstitutional and infringe on provincial jurisdiction. [REDACTED] • Canada’s Clean Fuel Regulations (CFR), in force since July 2023, require fossil fuel suppliers to gradually lower the lifecycle carbon intensity of gasoline and diesel used in the transportation sector, aiming for a 15 per cent reduction by 2030. Some Premiers have been vocally opposed to the CFRs, including a 2023 Council of Atlantic Premiers campaign calling on the federal government to rethink the implementation of the CFRs and to work with Premiers to develop a plan to address the disproportionate impacts on Atlantic Canadians.

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- In September 2025, the federal government announced its intention to make targeted amendments to the CFR, including a minimum domestic content requirement for low-carbon fuels and/or a credit multiplier for fuels made in Canada. [Redacted]

• [Redacted]

• [Redacted]

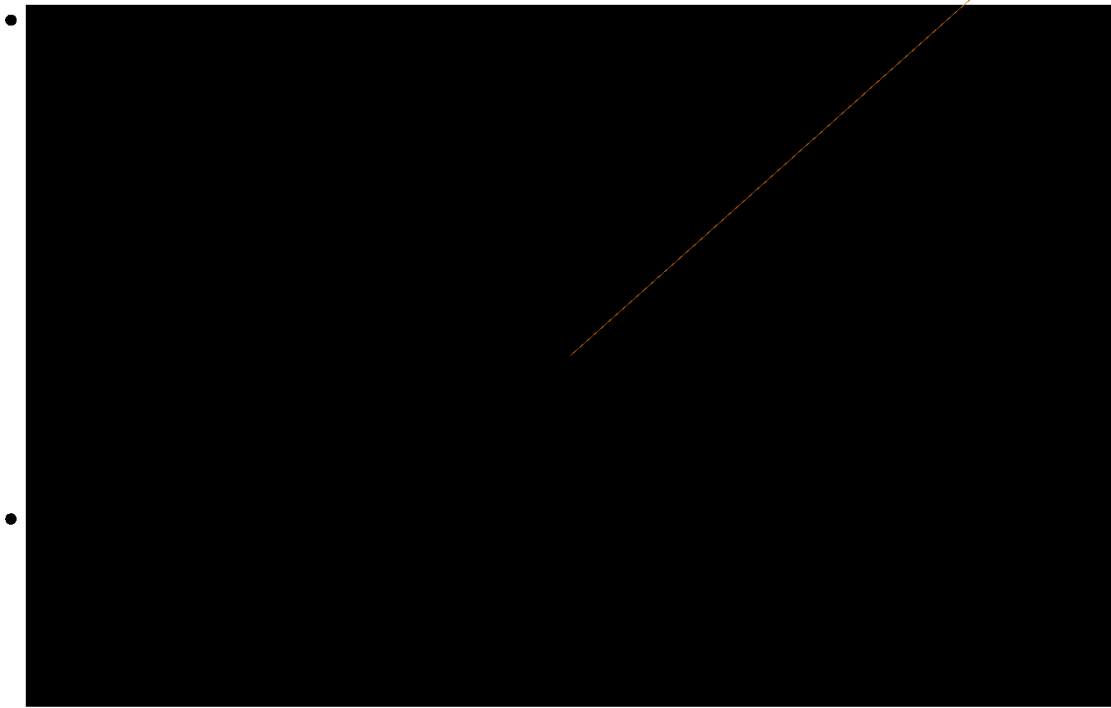
s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Potential Speaking Notes

- **Newfoundland and Labrador is a true energy leader—home to world-class oil and gas resources, abundant critical minerals, vast hydroelectric capacity, significant wind energy potential, and exceptional opportunities for renewable energy development.**
- **We also have several strategic advantages, including:**
 - proximity to key energy markets in the U.S. and transcontinental shipping lanes
 - deep-sea, year-round, ice-free ports
 - world-class wind, water, and land resources
 - research and development capacity through our post-secondary institutions
 - a well-established service and supply sector that has been supporting the offshore for decades
 - a skilled workforce experienced in large-scale construction in harsh environments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building on these strategic advantages, my government will develop a comprehensive 10-year Energy Plan to guide the development of both renewable and non-renewable resources, including oil, natural gas, mining, hydro, wind, solar, and tidal energy, in an environmentally responsible manner.• [REDACTED] <p>s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>
<p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• [REDACTED]• At the June 2025 FMM, First Ministers underscored the importance of collaborative action to ensure community safety and security. As a result, First Ministers tasked FPT Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) with developing an action plan to advance these priorities for review at a future meeting.• [REDACTED]• [REDACTED]• [REDACTED]• [REDACTED]• [REDACTED]• The safety of Canadians was an important issue at the 2025 Summer COF Meeting. Premiers discussed the federal government’s commitment to bail reform and collaboration to address the issue of repeat and violent offending with legislative and law enforcement measures as well as efforts on a range of interconnected issues, including poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and mental health. Premiers called for the federal government to amend the Criminal Code in a continued effort to ensure meaningful bail reform and work with provinces and territories to measure the impact of these changes. Premiers also reaffirmed the need to review risk assessment for sentencing and post-incarceration release of repeat sex offenders and individuals charged with intimate partner violence and gender-based violence crimes.• [REDACTED] <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p>

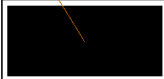
	<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The RCMP serves as the police of jurisdiction in most provinces, the territories, 150 municipalities, and approximately 600 Indigenous communities. The RCMP currently provides policing to 82 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's geography and 56 percent of its population, particularly in rural and remote areas.• [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <p><u>Potential Speaking Points</u> s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring safer communities and that our residents feel safe is a key priority for Newfoundland and Labrador. [Redacted]• [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 35(1)(d)</p>
<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• [Redacted]• [Redacted] <p>[Redacted] See Tab 10 for an information note on immigration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through Budget 2025, the federal government released the 2026-28 ILP, which outlines permanent resident (PR) and temporary resident (TR) admission targets for Canada for the next three years for all immigration categories (economic, family, refugee, humanitarian and compassionate).• The 2026-28 ILP sets tighter eligibility rules as well as caps on immigration numbers for 2026, including fewer PRs, caps on temporary workers and international students, reduced admissions for refugees and protected persons, tighter asylum rules, and more.• PTs receive an allocation of spaces from the federal government for each provincial immigration program they administer. [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)</p>



Potential Speaking Points

- **My government is committed to ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador’s priorities on population growth are closely aligned with rural and regional economic prosperity and long-term retention.**
- **While we value the collaborative relationship between our governments, the proposed 2026 allocations under the Provincial Nominee Program and the Atlantic Immigration Program fall significantly short of what is required to sustain these priorities and support our labour market and population growth strategies, particularly in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.**
- **Our province has consistently demonstrated leadership and partnership in advancing Canada’s immigration objectives. However, without sufficient allocations, our ability to maintain momentum in population growth and address critical labour shortages, particularly in rural health care and education, will be severely compromised.**

s. 34(1)(a)(i)



- Prime Minister Carney and the COF Chair, PE Premier Thompson will deliver closing remarks and summarize next steps.

Prepared/ Reviewed by: M. Philpott/C. Kenny/J. Barnes/M. Janes
Approved by: Gillian Skinner, DM

January 25, 2026

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: International Trade

Issue: This note provides an overview of current issues and ongoing negotiations in international trade with a specific focus on trade actions stemming from the Canada-United States trade relationship.

Background and Current Status:

- Newfoundland and Labrador exports to a diverse range of international markets (see **Annex A**). The United States (U.S.) continues to be the province's primary export destination, though important markets are also present in Europe and Asia. Accordingly, the Province monitors potential trade developments across a wide range of jurisdictions. This work is supported through collaboration with the federal government, foreign embassies, industry associations, labour organizations, and provincial businesses
- The U.S. is Newfoundland and Labrador's largest trading partner, accounting for just over half of the province's total exports and approximately a quarter of total imports. In 2024, NL exports to the U.S. totaled nearly \$6.9 billion. The oil and gas sector accounted for the majority of this value, contributing over \$5.4 billion, followed by seafood exports, which reached \$851 million. Imports from the U.S. totaled \$940 million, making it the province's largest source of imported goods as well.
- While current U.S. trade actions run contrary, the Canada–U.S. trade relationship is intended to be governed by the Canada – U.S. – Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), which came into force in 2020. CUSMA includes a six-year review clause and a 16-year sunset clause, unless all parties agree to extend it. In preparation for the formal review scheduled to begin in June 2026, all three member countries have launched public consultations to gather feedback.

More details on CUSMA Review can be found in **Tab 5**.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

- Since the second Trump Administration came into power in the U.S. in January 2025 [REDACTED] This has included the on-again off-again imposition of tariffs on Canadian exports and Canadian retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports.
- Canada now maintains only sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminum, and autos, while the U.S. currently has in place the following measures:
 - Broad tariffs under International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA): 35 per cent on most Canadian goods, 10 per cent on energy, with CUSMA exemptions.
 - Steel and aluminum: 50 per cent tariffs (including derivatives).
 - Automobiles and parts: 25 per cent on non-CUSMA compliant vehicles and parts.
 - Softwood lumber: combined duties of 45.19 per cent (35.19 per cent from Countervailing/Anti-Dumping duties and 10 per cent from now applied to Newfoundland and Labrador exports.
 - Eliminated \$800 de minimis exemption: This meant goods under \$800 USD could enter the U.S. duty free.
 - An additional 10 per cent tariff on Canadian goods was threatened during Fall 2025 but has not been imposed.

For a timeline and overview of the imposition of tariffs between the two countries, please see **Annex B**.

- The Province has taken actions in response to the changing trade environment such as:
 - Budget 2025 Contingency Fund: \$200 million for responsive measures;
 - Removed U.S. alcohol from Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation (NLC) shelves, in December 2025 remaining inventory of U.S. alcohol returned to the shelves to be sold and a portion to be donated to charity;
 - Various program supports such as Seafood Market Diversification (\$5.75 million) and Workforce Relief Fund (\$5 million);
 - Labour mobility initiatives such as the **Fair Registration Practices Act** and regulations; and
 - Internal trade initiatives (e.g., MOU on Direct-to-Consumer alcohol, MRA on Goods, Completion of the Financial Services Chapter)
- On November 26, 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced additional measures to support sectors affected by international trade actions including a focus on inputs such as steel and lumber. See **Annex C** for more information on these measures and others previously announced by the federal government. s. 29(1)(a)
- [REDACTED] Prime Minister Mark Carney has emphasized the need for Canada to pivot towards a “reliance to resilient” strategy, introducing a formal mandate to double Canada’s non-U.S. exports over the next decade and a prioritization of diversification efforts through strategic partnerships. During his speech at the World Economic Forum on January 20, 2026, Prime Minister Carney warned that the world is in a rupture, rather than transition and that great powers are using economic integration as a weapon of coercion, citing a global landscape where interdependence has become a source of subordination rather than mutual benefit.
- Beyond CUSMA, Canada maintains free trade agreements with over 50 countries. Key agreements include the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).
- On September 24, 2025, Canada signed the Canada–Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with entry into force expected in 2026. Given Indonesia’s large and growing economy, this agreement may present future opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly in the critical minerals sector.
- The Canada–Ecuador Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded negotiations in January 2025, with a joint statement issued on May 24, 2025. s. 29(1)(a)
- On December 13, 2025, Global Affairs Canada launched public consultations on potential trade agreements with Thailand, India, United Arab Emirates, and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay).
- In addition to, these proposed negotiations, during his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on November 20, 2025, Prime Minister Carney and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, signed the new Canada-UAE Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA). This agreement is intended to establish clear, predictable rules for investors, partnerships between Canadian and UAE industries and to ensure a stable business environment between both countries.

- During the same visit, Canada and the UAE also launched negotiations towards a CEPA, that seek to drastically reduce tariffs, administrative burden and expand market access for Canadian exporters. This new agreement has the potential to double Canada UAE trade from \$3.4 billion to \$7 billion in the next decade. The UAE have also committed to investing \$70 billion into Canada's key, strategic sectors, including energy, artificial intelligence (AI), logistics and mining.
- Canada is also currently in the process of negotiating a series of FIPAs with Argentina, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Uruguay and Zambia. Additionally, exploratory discussions are being had with Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and South Africa.
- In order to align with U.S. measures and help mitigate emerging Canada-U.S. trade tensions, Canada imposed a 100 per cent surtax on Chinese electric vehicles on October 1, 2024 and a 25 per cent surtax on Chinese steel and aluminum on October 22, 2024, prompting China to retaliate on March 20, 2025 with tariffs of 100 per cent on Canadian canola oil, oil cakes, and peas, and 25 per cent on seafood and pork.
- On January 16, 2026, Canada announced a *Preliminary Agreement-In-Principle to Address Economic and Trade Issues between Canada and the People's Republic of China*, that saw some tariff reductions between the two countries including reducing tariffs on Canola and in the seafood sector a reduction in tariffs on Lobster and Crab.

More details on this agreement and China more broadly can be found in **this tab**.

Analysis

-  s. 29(1)(a)

- According to data released by Global Affairs Canada on January 14, 2025, global real gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed from 3.3 percent in Q2 to 2.9 per cent in Q3. Despite this global deceleration, Canada recorded a relatively strong annualized GDP growth rate of 2.6 per cent in Q3. However, the increase was driven mainly by declining imports, particularly in metals and industrial machinery, aligning with weakening investment trends. Furthermore, while Canada posted a 1.5 per cent GDP growth in the first three quarters of 2025 compared to 2024, sectors impacted by U.S. Section 232 tariffs were down 3.2 per cent. Additionally, Canada's goods and exports rose 1.8 per cent in Q3, largely led by energy products.

Seafood

- Newfoundland and Labrador is significantly affected by China's tariffs and Canadian retaliatory/safeguard action, specifically in the context of the 25 per cent tariffs on seafood.
- Newfoundland and Labrador exported roughly \$258 million in seafood to China in 2024 and stakeholders have consistently expressed their concern in relation to the impact of tariffs on the seafood industry in the province.
- China was the single largest destination for Newfoundland and Labrador's shell-on shrimp, representing about 51 per cent of that export category prior to the imposition of tariffs. Crabs were the second-largest item, with exports of \$49 million in 2024. China is Canada's second-largest seafood export market (approximately \$1.25 billion in 2024).
- The Province has continued to advocate for Canada to engage with China to mitigate trade tensions. The reduction in tariffs on Lobster and Crab for 2026 is welcome relief for these

industries but concerns remain as these two species make up approximately 21 per cent of seafood exports to China thus leaving 79 per cent of seafood exports to China still facing tariffs.

s. 29(1)(a)

Other International Trade Negotiations

- Canada is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In late October 2025, Prime Minister Carney attended the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED] A Trade Continuity Agreement (TCA) remains in place, offering similar provisions to CETA. [REDACTED]

However, as of June 2025, Canada has agreed to ratify the UK's accession to the CPTPP in Fall 2025, [REDACTED] Further, following the June 15, 2025 Joint Statement by Prime Ministers Carney and Starmer, the Canada–UK Economic and Trade Working Group was established to deepen bilateral trade relations.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada formally resumed in late 2025 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Both countries officially launched their respective public consultations for trade talks in December of 2025. A CEPA would mirror the ambition and scope of agreements such as CETA and the CPTPP, offering Canada preferential access to one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, with India's GDP projected to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2026.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- As of August 2025, Canada has resumed trade negotiations with the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR) [REDACTED] MERCOSUR has a combined real GDP of nearly \$3 trillion.

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- In November of 2025, Canada accelerated its diversification efforts by announcing intentions to initiate bilateral negotiations towards Free Trade Agreements with both Thailand (GDP: \$526.5 billion) and the Philippines (GDP: \$461.1 billion).

Prepared by/Reviewed by: J. Bonnell/J. Dredge/ M. Janes

Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

ANNEX A
Newfoundland and Labrador International Exports

Top 20 Export Destinations 2024

Country	Exports (CAD)
United States	6,975,266,946
Netherlands	1,896,592,542
Germany	954,826,269
United Kingdom	925,178,758
China	739,302,174
Algeria	358,725,723
Japan	340,709,895
France (incl. Monaco, French Antilles)	316,956,023
Belgium	212,085,802
Spain	149,132,922
Egypt	121,772,938
Taiwan	121,286,355
Korea, South	99,340,340
Sweden	79,930,480
Trinidad and Tobago	78,441,149
Romania	78,346,437
Argentina	56,055,834
India	41,309,280
Vietnam	33,660,024
Saint Pierre-Miquelon	31,724,216
Total All Countries	13,894,036,812

Source: Statistics Canada

ANNEX B
Timeline of Recent Canada – U.S. Trade Actions

<p>February 1, 2025</p>	<p>On February 1, 2025, the U.S. imposed broad tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), including 25 per cent on most Canadian goods and 10 per cent on energy products, citing national security concerns.</p> <p>The IEEPA tariffs were imposed by the U.S. under the rationale that illicit drugs (fentanyl) were flowing into the U.S. from Canada and as such emergency action was required to stop such flows across the border. These IEEPA tariffs are currently being challenged at the Supreme Court of the U.S.</p> <p>These initial tariffs were subsequently revised by the U.S. whereby goods qualifying for Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) preferential treatment were exempted from these tariffs as of March 7, 2025.</p>
<p>March 4, 2025</p>	<p>On March 4, 2025, Canada imposed 25 per cent tariffs on \$30 billion of U.S. goods (e.g., peanut butter, coffee pods, appliances, yard/construction equipment) targeting U.S. producers reliant on Canadian markets.</p>
<p>March 12, 2025</p>	<p>On March 12, 2025, the U.S. applied 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act (a section of the Act that allows protective trade measures to be brought against imports in sectors deemed important to protect from a national security perspective). These were doubled to 50 per cent on June 4, and expanded to derivatives on August 18.</p> <p>On March 13, 2025, Canada responded with 25 per cent counter-tariffs on \$29.8 billion of U.S. goods (steel, aluminum, cast iron, plus unrelated items like tools, smartphones, computers, sports equipment, watches).</p>
<p>April 3, 2025</p>	<p>On April 3, 2025, the U.S. imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian automobiles (non-CUSMA compliant) and extended on May 3 to auto parts (CUSMA-compliant exempt). Canada responded on April 9 with 25 per cent tariffs on U.S.-built light vehicles.</p>
<p>June 2025</p>	<p>In June 2025, the federal government announced a series of new measures aimed at protecting the country's steel and aluminum industries and workers in response to ongoing trade tensions with the U.S. These measures include safeguards such as tariff rate quotas (only permitting a certain amount of a good to enter a country tariff free) to protect domestic producers.</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>

June 29, 2025	On June 29, 2025, Canada announced its intention to rescind its Digital Services Tax (DST) Canada's DST was originally introduced in 2020 to address gaps in the taxation of revenues earned in Canada by large technology firms. If parliament rescinds the Act, amounts already paid will be refunded with interest at the standard corporate refund rate, calculated from the date of payment.
July 2025,	In July 2025, the U.S. raised anti-dumping duties on softwood lumber to 20.56 per cent (up from 7.66 per cent) and countervailing duties to 14.63 per cent, resulting in a combined tariff rate of 35.19 per cent for most Canadian exporters - Newfoundland and Labrador has historically maintained tariff free access in this sector under the ' <i>Maritime Exemption</i> '. Canada did not respond with retaliatory tariffs.
August 1, 2025	On August 1, 2025, the U.S. increased the "IEEPA tariff" rate on Canadian goods from 25 per cent to 35 per cent, while maintaining the 10 per cent rate on energy products, and the CUSMA carve-out.
August 29, 2025	Effective August 29, 2025, the U.S. eliminated the de minimis exemption (a value below which duties do not apply regardless of the type or origin of the good) for shipments valued under \$800 USD, including those from Canada. This means such shipments are no longer automatically duty- and tariff-free, unless they meet the CUSMA rules of origin.
September 1, 2025	On September 1, 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced Canada would remove the retaliatory tariffs it imposed on March 4, 2025 in their entirety, and would remove the tariffs imposed on unrelated items it imposed on March 13, 2025 in response to U.S. action on steel and aluminum. The tariffs on U.S.-built light vehicles remain in place.
October 14, 2025	<p>A new 10 per cent tariff on all imported softwood lumber was enacted by the U.S. on October 14, 2025. It is understood that this 10 per cent applies to Newfoundland and Labrador exports, that were historically exempt from U.S. softwood lumber tariffs.</p> <p>In addition, President Trump has threatened to apply an additional 10 per cent tariffs on Canadian goods. This tariff has yet to be imposed. Further, ostensibly in response to an ad run in the U.S. by the Government of Ontario, President Trump indicated publicly that he had terminated trade discussions with Canada at this time.</p>
January 2026	Preliminary discussions between the U.S. and Canada regarding the upcoming CUSMA Review are slated to begin.

ANNEX C

Recent Government of Canada Measures

- **Limiting Foreign Steel Imports:** Canada is tightening tariff rate quotas and imposing new tariffs to curb foreign steel imports and better protect domestic producers. These measures, combined with stronger border enforcement and the phase-out of temporary tariff remissions in 2026, are intended to prevent trade diversion and generate over \$1 billion in new demand for Canadian steel.
- **Building With Canadian Steel and Lumber:** The government will work with rail companies to cut interprovincial freight rates for Canadian steel and lumber by half, making it more affordable to build with domestic materials. Through Build Canada Homes and a forthcoming Buy Canadian Policy, Ottawa aims to significantly increase demand for Canadian wood and steel while leveraging federal investments aimed to spur additional private and provincial contributions.
- **Supporting Workers and Businesses in Steel and Lumber:** Canada is investing in enhanced worker supports, including increased income replacement for employees under Work-Sharing arrangements, to help tens of thousands of workers adapt to industry transitions. Additional financing tools, such as expanded BDC guarantees, new liquidity supports, a single-window access point, and a national transformation task force is aimed to help steel and forestry companies stabilize, modernize, and remain competitive over the long term.
- **Labour Market Development Agreements (LMDAs) Reskilling Package** – \$450 million over three years to retrain and upskill up to 50,000 workers through employer-based training, wage subsidies, and career counselling, targeting mid-career, long-tenured workers affected by U.S. tariffs and underrepresented groups including persons with disabilities, women, and Indigenous Peoples.
- **Digital Job Tools and National Online Training Platform** – \$50 million over five years to modernize the Job Bank with AI-driven job matching, automatic EI claimant enrollment, and a searchable training platform, plus new features such as employer feedback on skills gaps, salary transparency, and a Worker Dashboard.
- **Workforce Alliances and Sectoral Workforce Innovation Fund** – \$382 million over five years to create 3–5 alliances among employers, unions, and industry groups to address labour market challenges in sectors under pressure (e.g., auto parts, steel, aluminum) and growth sectors (e.g., energy, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing), coordinated with the Strategic Response Fund.
- **Workforce Innovation Fund** – \$50 million flexible fund to support regionally tailored projects that help businesses recruit and retain workers, especially in rural and remote areas, with investment levels adjusted by sector and cost drivers.
- **Extra EI Weeks for Long-Tenured Workers** – \$1.6 billion over five years to provide 20 additional weeks of EI (up to 65 weeks total) for approximately 190,000 long-tenured workers laid off due to tariffs, retroactive to June 15, 2025, with access to training and career counselling via LMDAs.

- **Extension of Temporary EI Measures** – \$842 million over two years to suspend separation payment rules (\$424M) and waive the one-week waiting period (\$418M), ensuring immediate income support for up to 700,000 claimants during economic downturns.
- **Strategic Response Fund (SRF)** – \$5 billion to support large-scale projects in trade-exposed sectors facing revenue loss or job cuts, funding both development and capital costs, with priority for projects that maintain industrial capacity, pivot to new markets, and receive matching provincial/territorial funding; replaces the Strategic Innovation Fund but continues its innovation support.
- **Buy Canadian Policy** – No direct funding specified; mandates federal procurement to prioritize Canadian suppliers and materials (starting with steel and softwood lumber), expands to infrastructure and grants (\$70B in spending), includes local content rules, SME procurement streams, and applies to crown corporations and agencies.
- **Liquidity Relief Measures** – No direct funding specified; increases BDC loan cap from \$2M to \$5M, lowers interest rates and extends maturities for large enterprises, and exempts 2026 Electric Vehicle Availability Standard (EVAS) target to ease pressure on the auto sector.
- **Biofuels Production Incentive** – Over \$370 million over two years to support domestic biodiesel and renewable diesel producers via per-litre incentives (up to 300 million litres per facility), active January 2026 to December 2027, with Clean Fuel Regulation amendments to stabilize the sector.
- **AgriMarketing Program Expansion** – \$75 million over five years starting in 2026–27 to promote Canadian agri-food exports in high-growth markets (Africa, Middle East, Indo-Pacific), with targeted support for sectors affected by trade barriers including canola, grain, fish, and seafood.
- **Advance Payments Program (APP) Enhancement** – Temporarily doubles the interest-free portion of APP loans for canola producers from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for 2025–26, improving financial flexibility for 41 per cent of APP users amid trade uncertainty.
- **Regional Tariff Response Initiative** – Increased from \$450 million to \$1 billion over three years to provide non-repayable contributions (up to \$1M) to SMEs and supporting organizations impacted by tariffs, enabling investment in diversification, innovation, and market expansion; includes eligibility for seafood processors affected by trade disruptions. Of the \$1 billion, the Atlantic Canada allocation is \$80 million.

Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: China Relations

Issue: To support discussions at the First Ministers' Meeting, this backgrounder provides information on the status of Canada-China relations, including the Prime Minister's recent meetings in China, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador-China relations.

Background and Current Status:

- The People's Republic of China (China) is the largest of all Asian countries, occupying nearly the entire East Asian landmass. China shares borders with 14 countries, while facing South Korea and Japan, across the Yellow Sea, and the Philippines, across the South China Sea. Beijing is its capital city and cultural, economic, and communications center. Shanghai is the main industrial city, while Hong Kong is the leading commercial center and port.
- The country is a unitary socialist state led by the Communist Party of China (CCP), operating as a one-party system where the CCP exercises ultimate authority, implementing policy through state organs like the National People's Congress (NPC), the legislature, and the State Council (executive), with the President as head of state, all under the CCP's unified leadership.
- President Xi Jinping assumed office in March 2013. In March 2018, he was re-elected for a second term by the NPC, which also passed a constitutional amendment removing the two-term limit on the presidency. He was then re-elected to a third five-year term as president in March 2023.
- China's National Bureau of Statistics (CNBS) reports the Chinese population reached 1.4 billion in 2025, the world's second largest. Data also shows China registered the lowest number of births last year since records began in 1949.
- In addition, CNBS reported a 5.0 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2025, reaching around US\$20.13 trillion (CAD\$27.83 trillion). Strong exports helped to compensate for weak consumer spending and business investment, contributing to a trade surplus of US\$1.2 trillion (CAD\$1.65 trillion) with key industrial sectors included: high-tech manufacturing, equipment manufacturing, new energy vehicles and batteries, 3D printing and industrial robotics, and green energy technology.

Canada-China Relations

- Canada and China have a long-standing relationship that predates the establishment of formal diplomatic ties in 1970. China is an important market for Canadian businesses, with opportunities in sectors such as agriculture and agri-food, natural resources and energy, consumer products, and environmental industries. In 2024, bilateral merchandise trade totaled CAD\$118.7 billion.
- Canada's relationship with China has been strained in recent years due to events such as the detention of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou by Canada in 2018 and the subsequent detention of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig by China.
- On May 19, 2022, Canada formally announced that it would ban Huawei from participating in the country's 5G networks due to national security concerns, aligning itself with key intelligence allies such as the United States (U.S.). The federal government stated that telecom providers would be required to stop purchasing new Huawei 4G and 5G equipment

by September 2022, remove all Huawei 5G equipment by June 28, 2024, and eliminate all Huawei 4G equipment by December 31, 2027. These measures were outlined in a federal government policy statement emphasizing that the decision was grounded in protecting Canada's telecommunications infrastructure from high-risk vendors and ensuring long-term network security.

- In addition, there were also increasing trade barriers and tariffs put in place between the two countries. For example, in alignment with U.S. actions, Canada imposed a 100 per cent surtax on Chinese EVs on October 1, 2024 and a 25 per cent surtax on Chinese steel and aluminum on October 22, 2024, prompting China to retaliate on March 20, 2025 with tariffs of 100 per cent on Canadian canola oil, oil cakes, and peas, and 25 per cent on seafood and pork.
- However, in January 2026, Prime Minister (PM) Carney visited China, where he met with President Xi, as well as the Premier of China, Li Qiang, and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, Zhao Leji. During this visit, PM Carney and President Xi released a joint statement (see **Annex A**) outlining the pillars of Canada and China's new strategic partnership.
- Central to this partnership is an agreement to collaborate in energy, clean technology, and climate competitiveness with a focus on expanding two-way energy cooperation (i.e., reducing emissions and scaling up investments in batteries, solar, wind, and energy storage). While in Beijing, PM Carney met business leaders in energy and clean technology to identify and accelerate Chinese investment opportunities in Canada.
- As part of this new partnership, Canada will allow up to 49,000 Chinese electric vehicles (EV) into the Canadian market, with the most-favoured-nation tariff rate of 6.1 per cent. This amount corresponds to volumes in the year prior to recent trade frictions on these imports (2023-2024), representing less than 3 per cent of the Canadian market for new vehicles sold in Canada. There is a growth factor that will be applied on a yearly basis to total quota of 6.5 per cent, this growth factor is estimated to be approximately half of the expected growth of the EV sector in Canada according to modeling by the Government of Canada. It is expected that within five years that half of these Chinese EVs will fall into the category of "low-cost" which is defined as less than \$35,000 FOB (Free on Board) cost, which is the price of the EV including manufacturing, packing, and loading onto a carrier at the origin port (China).
- Additionally, PM Carney and President Xi secured a preliminary agreement-in-principle (see **Annex B**) with landmark measures to remove trade barriers and reduce tariffs:
 - By March 1, 2026, Canada expects that China will lower tariffs on Canadian canola seed to a combined rate of approximately 15 per cent. China is a CAD\$4 billion canola seed market for Canadian producers, and this change represents a significant drop from current combined tariff levels of approximately 85 per cent.
 - Canada expects that Canadian canola meal, lobsters, crabs, and peas will not be subject to relevant anti-discrimination tariffs from March 1, 2026, until at least the end of this year.
- Saskatchewan Premier Moe accompanied the Prime Minister on the mission to China given the impact of the agricultural tariffs on that province, which provides approximately 55 per cent of the nation's canola.
- Ontario Premier Ford has been critical of the allowance of Chinese-made EVs into the Canadian market, calling on Canadians to boycott Chinese-made EVs and to support the domestic industry.

Analysis:*Immigration*

- Since 2014, 1,009 individuals from China have become permanent residents (PRs) in the province, according to 2025 data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). IRCC also reports 24 Temporary Foreign Workers and 752 International Mobility Program work permit holders from China residing in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2024.
- JGRD advises that the Province has nominated 1,040 individuals (115 in 2025), including principal applicants and dependents, from China for PR through the NL Provincial Nominee Program, and endorsed 700 individuals (34 in 2025), including principal applicants and dependents, from China for PR through the Atlantic Immigration Program.

Newfoundland and Labrador-China Collaboration

- In 2001, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Zhejiang Province in China, designed to strengthen cooperation in the areas of education, culture, fisheries, aquaculture and general economic development. The MOU was re-signed in 2013 during a provincial trade mission to China.

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

Trade and Investment

- In 2024, China was Newfoundland and Labrador's fifth-largest trading partner, with exports totaling approximately CAD\$739.3 million, accounting for nearly 5.3 per cent of the province's total exports. Newfoundland and Labrador's exports to China have been on the decline in recent years, down from CAD\$1.1 billion in 2021.
- Newfoundland and Labrador's 2024 exports to China primarily consisted of iron ore (approximately CAD\$401.1 million), seafood products (approximately CAD\$258.2) and nickel (approximately CAD\$68.9 million). In 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador's imports from China were roughly CAD\$104.4 million, driven mainly by refined petroleum oils (CAD\$41.6 million), marine vessels (CAD\$33.4 million), as well as a large variety of industrial equipment and metal components. See **Annex C** for full trade statistics.
- In 2018, the Province participated in an Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS) mission to China to support existing trade ties, attract investment and enhance partnerships.
- In recent years, JGRD has aligned with the federal government's Indo-Pacific Strategy and its approach to China.
- Various sectors in the province have been connected with the Chinese market, such as ocean tech, tourism, fisheries and other natural resource-based industries.

s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

- Rutter is active in China [REDACTED] Their advanced Sigma S6 Oil Spill Detection system is supporting users across China and other major offshore regions and continues to strengthen their presence in the Chinese market.

Fisheries

- China is one of Canada’s most important seafood markets, with national exports totaling CAD \$1.25 billion in 2024. Newfoundland and Labrador plays a significant role in this trade, contributing approximately 20 per cent of Canada’s seafood export value to China—third-highest among all provinces and territories. This underscores the province’s strategic importance in the national seafood supply chain.
- For Newfoundland and Labrador specifically, China is the province’s second-largest seafood export market after the United States, typically representing 15 to 20 per cent of overall seafood export value. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

- In 2024, Newfoundland and Labrador exported CAD \$258 million in seafood to China, representing 37 per cent of all provincial exports to that market. Of that amount, crab (CAD \$49 million) and lobster (CAD \$6.6 million) accounted for 21 per cent of seafood export value to China. These are the only products that appear to benefit from the recently announced federal tariff relief.
- This means that 79 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador’s 2024 seafood exports to China—primarily shrimp (CAD \$105 million), halibut (CAD \$36 million), and clams (CAD \$27 million)—do not appear to benefit from the tariff measures. These species remain subject to China’s existing tariffs, which has direct implications for the province’s harvesters and processors. [REDACTED]

Annex D for species-level detail.

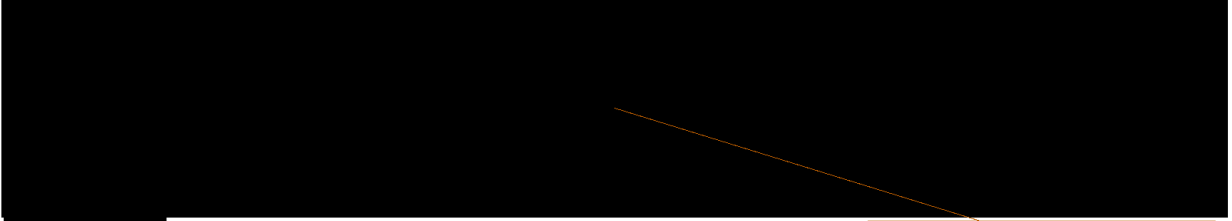
s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED]

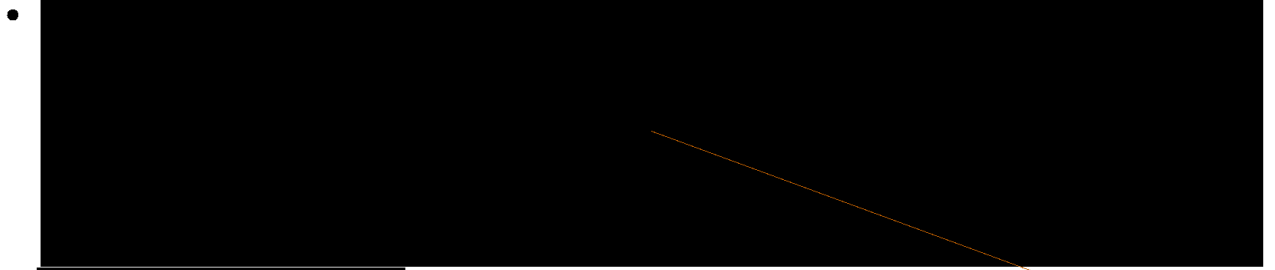
s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED]

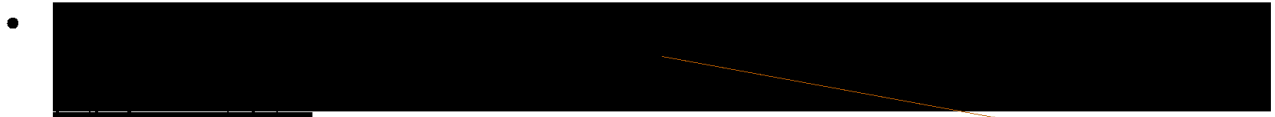
s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(b)



s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(b)



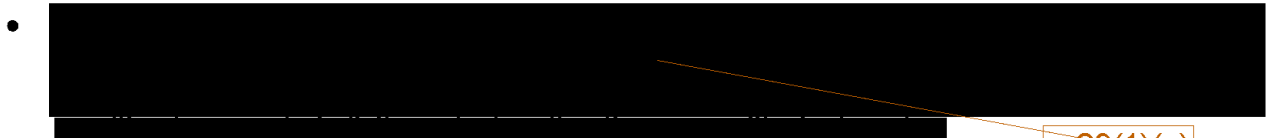
s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- FA works extensively with other provinces, federal departments (particularly Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and the Trade Commissioner Service on promotions, developing trade leads, gathering market intelligence, organizing trade missions, and participating in trade shows. FA has been participating in the China Fisheries and Seafood Expo since 2006 and continues to work with our counterparts in the other provinces and the federal government on market development initiatives in China.
- In addition, many provincial seafood companies are active in the Chinese market and several have offices in China, including Ocean Choice International, Newfound Resources Ltd. and Whitecap International Seafood Exporters.

Critical Minerals



s. 29(1)(a)

- Chinese foreign investment in the province includes the currently idled Beaver Brook Antimony mine s. 29(1)(a)

Oil and Gas

- CNOOC Limited (CNOOC), a subsidiary of the state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation, is China's largest offshore crude oil and natural gas producer and is one of the largest independent exploration and production companies in the world. In 2016-17, CNOOC acquired interests in two exploration licences in the Flemish Pass Basin. In late 2019, the company received Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency project approval to commence drilling operations, but COVID-19 delayed operations. By 2021, CNOOC had begun drilling a well, but the well proved unproductive and CNOOC abandoned its operations and surrendered its licences in 2022.

Education

s. 37(1)(b)

- In 2025, there were approximately [REDACTED] students enrolled across multiple post-secondary institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador.

s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]

- EECD advises that Memorial University, Memorial's Marine Institute, and the College of the North Atlantic all have active academic partnerships and ongoing projects with Chinese institutions and partners.

Prepared/ Reviewed by: I. Carvalho et al./C. Kenny/J. Dredge/J. Barnes (*with input from JGRD, EM, FA, EECD*)

Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

ANNEX A
Joint statement of the Canada-China Leaders' Meeting

January 16, 2026
Beijing, China

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, paid an official visit to China from 14-17 January 2026. During the visit, His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, met with Prime Minister Carney. Premier Li Qiang held talks with Prime Minister Mark Carney. His Excellency Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress also met with Prime Minister Mark Carney. Leaders exchanged views on Canada-China relations, as well as regional and international issues of common interest in an in-depth, pragmatic and constructive manner.
2. Leaders reaffirmed the principles and policies that have guided Canada-China relations. Canada reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to its One China policy. The two sides committed to advancing the Canada-China new Strategic Partnership in the spirit of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit to bring more positive outcomes to both peoples.
3. Leaders welcomed the progress made in recent bilateral dialogues. They committed to strengthening exchanges at all levels and to advancing outcomes in the following areas:

Macroeconomic engagement: The two sides decided to reinvigorate the high-level Canada-China Economic and Financial Strategic Dialogue (EFSD) to discuss wide ranging related issues to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

Economic and trade cooperation: Leaders committed to strengthening the economic and trade partnership between Canada and China and welcomed progress in the negotiations to resolve trade issues. The two sides committed to expanding bilateral trade, strengthening two-way investment, and deepening cooperation in diverse sectors of mutual interest. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of a fair and open business environment for enterprises of both countries, and committed to addressing economic and trade issues of mutual concern through constructive consultation, including through a renewed Canada-China Joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETC). Leaders welcomed the signing of the Canada-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Roadmap, and instructed officials to advance the work related to the document. The two sides developed a preliminary joint arrangement to address bilateral economic and trade issues. The two sides committed to strengthening agricultural cooperation and food security, including through a revitalized Canada-China Joint Agriculture Committee.

Energy: The two sides concurred to support exchanges and cooperation in clean energy, and strengthen cooperation in conventional energy such as oil and gas resource development. The two sides decided to launch a Ministerial Energy Dialogue to outline key areas to support two-way investment and trade in clean and conventional energy. They also committed to building on existing collaboration for responsible management of bilateral civil nuclear energy and to strengthening cooperation in natural uranium trade in accordance with the highest international standards, including relevant International Atomic Energy Agency instruments.

Finance: The two sides welcomed the establishment of a Financial Working Group to enhance bilateral engagement on financial issues. The working group will report to the co-chairs of the

EFSD. Leaders welcomed the signing of the Third Agreement to Extend and Amend the Chinese Yuan/Canadian Dollar Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement between the People's Bank of China and the Bank of Canada.

Public security and safety: The two sides committed to strengthening law enforcement cooperation to combat corruption and transnational crimes, including telecommunication and cyber fraud and illegal synthetic drugs in accordance with their respective laws. The two sides committed to continuing their bilateral law enforcement cooperation annual working group meeting mechanism, under which a counternarcotics dialogue is a key part, and securing more concrete achievements to ensure the security and safety of the two peoples.

People-to-people ties and cultural exchanges: The two sides concurred that people-to-people ties are the foundation of the bilateral relationship and committed to fostering these ties to promote greater mutual understanding and cooperation. The two sides decided to restart the Canada-China Joint Committee on Culture. The two sides committed to strengthening exchanges and cooperation in areas such as culture, education, arts, heritage, creative industries and to promoting legislative and sub-national exchanges. The two sides consented to provide mutual support and convenience for media to work in each other's countries, and provide greater convenience for two-way travel. The two sides concurred to provide facilitation for respective diplomatic premises.

Multilateralism: The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, supporting the central role of the United Nations (UN) in international affairs, safeguarding and improving the rules-based multilateral trading system underpinned by the World Trade Organization (WTO), and keeping global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth. Canada notes the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) proposed by China. The two sides committed to working to improve global governance, and to strengthening coordination and cooperation in the accelerated implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and on the reform of the international financial system. Canada supports China's hosting of the 2026 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings and looks forward to a successful APEC year, and appreciates China's support for Canada's offer to host in 2029. The two sides will look for opportunities to enhance exchanges and cooperation within the G20 and committed to deepening cooperation on climate and the environment, including under the frameworks of the Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA), the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), as well as under the Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Environmental Cooperation.

4. Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed appreciation to the government and people of the People's Republic of China for their warm and friendly hospitality. China welcomed the invitation of the Canadian side for Chinese leaders to visit Canada at a mutually convenient time.
5. During the visit, the two sides signed the following cooperation documents:
 - i. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Crimes Between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China
 - ii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada, the Ministry of Forests of the Province of British Columbia and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation on Modern Wood Construction
 - iii. Canada-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Roadmap

- iv. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China on the Canada-China Joint Committee on Culture
- v. Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China regarding Food Safety and Animal and Plant Health Cooperation
- vi. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and the China National Energy Administration on Strengthening Energy Cooperation
- vii. Letter of Intent for Cooperation between Destination Canada and China Media Group

ANNEX B

Preliminary Agreement-In-Principle to Address Economic and Trade Issues between Canada and the People's Republic of China

Addressing Bilateral Economic and Trade Concerns

The People's Republic of China is the world's second largest economy. It is Canada's second largest single-country trading partner, with bilateral merchandise and services trade totalling \$130.9B in 2024. As we face this hinge moment in history and fundamental transformations in the world's trade networks, Canada must have a serious, focused, and pragmatic relationship with China. Through this agreement-in-principle, we are settling long-standing trade issues and establishing a track for major new investments benefitting Canadian workers and businesses.

As part of this agreement, there will an opportunity to review its progress and implementation in three years to assess and confirm if all expected Canadian benefits have materialised as anticipated. Canada and China have also agreed to continue work in coming months on additional trade irritants of economic importance.

Electric Vehicles

Canada intends to provide an initial country-specific quota of 49,000 electric vehicles (EVs) per year at a most-favoured-nation tariff rate of 6.1%. We expect that this will catalyse considerable new Chinese joint-venture investment in Canada with trusted partners to protect and create new auto manufacturing jobs for Canadian workers, and ensure a robust build-out of Canada's EV supply chain. The proportion of the country-specific quota reserved for affordable EVs with an import price of \$35,000 CAD or less will reach 50% by 2030, kickstarting the availability of more affordable electric vehicles in Canada.

This will provide certainty to Canada's domestic auto-manufacturing industry by establishing managed market entry of affordable Chinese electric vehicles, within a predictable import frame. Canada will also work with Chinese auto manufacturers on timely vehicle certification to ensure they meet Canadian motor vehicle safety standards.

This amount is a return to volumes close to the year prior to recent trade frictions on these imports (2023-2024). This amount represents less than 3% of the market for new vehicles sold in Canada.

Canola Seeds

By March 1st, 2026, Canada expects that China will lower tariffs on Canadian canola seed to a combined rate of approximately 15%. This change represents a significant drop from current combined tariff levels of 84%. This will significantly improve market access for approximately \$4 billion of Canadian canola seed exports to China annually.

Canola Meal, Lobsters, Peas, Crabs and Other Products

Canada expects that Canadian canola meal, lobsters, peas and crabs will not be subjected to relevant anti-discrimination tariffs from March 1, 2026, to the end of this year. This will significantly improve market access for \$2.6 billion of Canadian agricultural goods, benefitting Canadian farmers across the country and seafood harvesters on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Canada expects China to accelerate the resumption of exports of Canadian beef, pet food, animal genetics, and other products to China.

Steel and Aluminum

Canada will extend to the end of 2026 previous remission measures for certain Chinese steel and aluminium products that are in short supply in Canada, covering 66 lines of product-specific remissions (11 full remissions and 55 partial remissions), and 49 tariff lines of company-specific remissions. Canada will also expand remissions coverage to 7 steel, 2 aluminum, and 4 steel derivative products. This expansion will enter into force by March 1, 2026, and be retroactive to January 1, 2026.

This measure covers steel, aluminum, and derivative products that are in low or have no supply in Canada, meaning they are not made by Canadian producers in sufficient volumes to serve the Canadian economy.

Trade Diversification

To build on this progress, Canada has set an ambitious new goal to increase our exports to China by 50% by 2030.

ANNEX C
Newfoundland and Labrador-China Trade Statistics

NL Top Exports to China 2024

Rank	HS6 Code	Product	Value (CAD)
1	260111	Iron ores and concentrates, other than roasted iron pyrites, non-agglomerated	401,113,189
2	030616	Cold-water shrimps & prawns, frozen, in shell or not, incl in shell cooked in water, etc	105,102,436
3	750210	Nickel, not alloyed	68,980,448
4	030614	Crabs, frozen, in shell or not, including boiled in shell	49,003,151
5	030331	Halibut, frozen, excluding fish of No 03.04, excluding livers and roes	36,130,429
Total (All Products)			739,302,174

NL Top Imports from China 2024

Rank	HS6 Code	Product	Value (CAD)
1	271019	Petroleum oils & oils, from bituminous minerals, not crude, not light,	41,662,666
2	890120	Tankers	18,523,200
3	890190	Cargo vessels, nes, and other vessels for the transport of both persons & goods	14,838,120
4	842833	Elevators & conveyors, continuous-action, belt types, for goods/materials, nes	3,843,475
5	732690	Articles, iron or steel, nes	3,741,927
Total (All Products)			104,475,707

Source: Statistics Canada

ANNEX D
NL Seafood Exports to China by Species (2024)

HS Code	Seafood product (description)	Value (CAD)
030616	Cold-water shrimps & prawns, frozen (in shell or not)	105,102,436
030614	Crabs, frozen (in shell or not)	49,003,151
030331	Halibut, frozen	36,130,429
030772	Clams, cockles and ark shells, frozen	27,175,388
030334	Turbots, frozen	11,580,008
030359	Pelagic species (n.e.s.), frozen	10,152,274
030612	Lobsters, frozen	6,202,415
030399	Fish fins/heads/tails/maws & other edible fish offal, frozen	3,582,638
030812	Sea cucumbers, frozen	2,664,289
030799	Molluscs & aquatic invertebrates (n.e.s.), incl. flours/meals/pellets	1,767,770
030760	Snails (excluding sea snails), live/fresh/chilled/frozen/dried/salted	1,463,568
030792	Molluscs (n.e.s.), frozen	1,427,293
030819	Sea cucumbers, frozen/dried/salted/in brine or smoked	761,222
030221	Halibut, fresh or chilled	603,328
030632	Lobsters, live/fresh/chilled	395,040
030732	Mussels, frozen	130,686
TOTAL	Total seafood exports to China	258,115,935

Source: Statistics Canada

ANNEX E
Top Seafood Exporting Provinces to China.

Jurisdiction	Total Seafood Exports to China (CAD) in 2024	% of Jurisdiction's Seafood Exports	% of Canada's Seafood Exports to China
Nova Scotia	601,036,336	27.9	47.9
British Columbia	288,329,679	22.6	22.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	258,288,131	18.8	20.6
New Brunswick	76,054,539	5.3	6
Prince Edward Island	16,754,301	4.8	1.3
Quebec	7,448,118	2.2	0.5
Ontario	6,054,437	2.5	0.4
Northwest Territories	108,714	100	0.01
Total All Canada	1,254,074,255		100

Source: Statistics Canada

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) Review

Issue: This note provides an overview of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review process.

Background and Current Status:

- CUSMA replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) effective July 1, 2020. Each party refers to the agreement differently, with it being known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in the United States (U.S.), and as Tratado entre México, Estados Unidos y Canadá (T-MEC) in Mexico.
- CUSMA served primarily to modernize and rebalance the existing trilateral framework. Among the notable changes was the introduction of a six-year review provision and a 16-year sunset provision, creating a structured timeline for renegotiation and long-term certainty, unlike NAFTA, which had no expiry mechanism.
- Established under Article 34.7 within CUSMA, Canada, the U.S., and Mexico are to conduct a joint review of CUSMA's performance, with the first review being scheduled to begin on June 30, 2026. During this review, each party may raise concerns or propose amendments to the existing agreement. If all three countries agree, the agreement is extended for another 16 years from the date of review. This clause was intended to serve as a structured opportunity to revisit key provisions and address emerging trade issues to maintain relevance and balance in the agreement.
- If consensus is not reached during the six-year review process, CUSMA enters a sunset phase and will be set to expire 16 years after its original implementation (June 30, 2036). In this scenario, the parties must meet annually to attempt resolution. If no agreement is reached within the 10-year window following the first review, the agreement will proceed to terminate.
- Canada's first formal round of consultations in preparation for the 2026 CUSMA review was launched by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in spring 2024. The process was designed to gather input from various stakeholders, including industry, Indigenous groups, labour, provincial and territorial governments (PTs), and the general public. The purpose was to assess how CUSMA has impacted various sectors and communities and to identify priorities for Canada in the upcoming review. Participants were invited to provide feedback in areas such as trade, investment, and regulatory cooperation. [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- Since mid-2025, Canada and the U.S. have been in negotiations at senior political levels aimed at establishing a new economic and security partnership between the two countries. Canada made key concessions, including rescinding its Digital Services Tax, to keep these negotiations on track. [REDACTED]

Further context on these international trade dynamics can be found in **Tab 4**.

Analysis

- [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- [Redacted]
[Redacted] Recent U.S. trade deals aimed at easing tensions with other countries have often taken the form of a series of commitments, rather than traditional treaty-based negotiations.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- [Redacted]
[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- [Redacted]
[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(b)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- In the lumber sector, the Province benefits from the Maritime Exemption. This exemption was successfully negotiated by Nova Scotia with the U.S. Department of Commerce in November 2017 for lumber products from NS, Newfoundland and Labrador and PE. This followed the expiration of the previous Maritime Exemption in the 2006 Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement (which also included NB at the time).

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- Effective October 22, 2025, following the United States' "Section 232" (National Security Investigation on lumber), the U.S. imposed a 10% tariff rate, in addition to the current antidumping and countervailing duties, on certain softwood lumber products. Newfoundland and Labrador producers are not exempt from this new 10% duty.
- In the dairy sector, although Newfoundland and Labrador's industry is smaller than in other PTs, Canada's Supply Management System has traditionally played an important role in supporting local industry.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- With respect to Dairy, the U.S. has twice challenged Canada's Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allocation system under CUSMA, which has led Canada to make some policy changes.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(iv)

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Prepared by/Reviewed by: J. Bonnell/J. Dredge/M. Janes

Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: Internal Trade

Issue: To provide an overview of internal trade matters.

Background:

- The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) came into force on July 1, 1995, marking the first comprehensive effort to address internal trade barriers. This Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) agreement is overseen by the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) and implemented by Internal Trade Representatives (ITRs).
- The CFTA aims to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investments, and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market. The CFTA also includes a Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT), an FPT body to promote regulatory reconciliation and cooperation.
- The CFTA requires parties to ensure non-discrimination against the goods, services, workers and businesses of all other parties. However, parties may take exceptions against provisions where they either cannot or do not wish to meet the obligations for various reasons. Where all parties are seeking the same exception, a general exception is included in the text of the agreement. Where such is only true for individual parties, those parties may take a party-specific exception. For example, Newfoundland and Labrador took exceptions for the Atlantic Accord and Minimum Processing Requirements (MPRs) for fish, among others. Such exceptions allow these policies to remain available to government, without being offside the CFTA.
- In early 2025, the imposition of United States (U.S.) tariffs renewed FPT interest in strengthening Canada's internal market to mitigate potential economic impacts. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The CIT has historically comprised ministers responsible for trade and/or economic development, and premiers when they have held such responsibilities.
- The CIT Ministers presented recommendations to First Ministers that were formally adopted in March 2025, including:
 1. Enhance the CFTA by rapidly reviewing all Party-Specific Exceptions (PSEs) with the goal of significantly reducing them, and concluding the Financial Services Chapter.
 2. Advance mutual recognition, including recommitting to the trucking pilot and prioritizing economy-focused mutual recognition of goods through the RCT.
 3. Enhance labour mobility in cooperation with the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM).
 4. Implement Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) alcohol sales in willing jurisdictions and enhance domestic trade promotion.
- At the November 19, 2025, CIT meeting in Yellowknife these recommendations were either concluded or further advanced:
 1. During 2025, CFTA Parties removed 30% of PSEs in the CFTA.
 2. At the CIT meeting, CFTA Parties signed the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods and announced the endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding Interprovincial Trucking [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

3. CIT ministers approved four actions for improving labour mobility including making amendments to the Labour Mobility Chapter of the CFTA; reviewing the 14 CFTA labour mobility exceptions; eliminating barriers to skilled trades mobility; and addressing occupational health and safety issues by engaging with the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation.
 4. The MOU for Direct-to-Consumer Alcohol Sales has been signed by 12 CFTA jurisdictions (NT and NU did not sign) and is scheduled to be operationalized by May 29, 2026.
- Further to the achievements above, CIT ministers also concluded the CFTA's Financial Services Chapter.

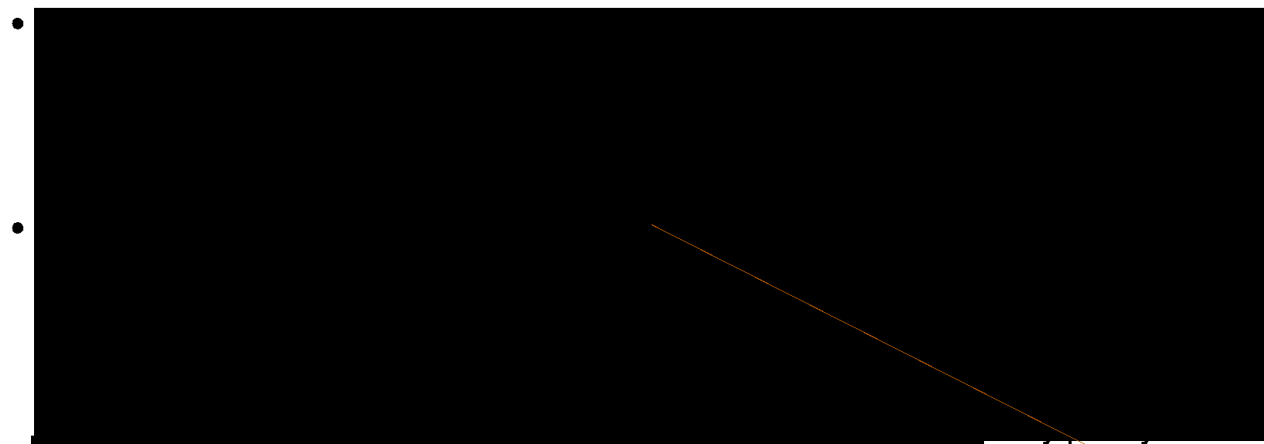


s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Various PTs have also undertaken legislative initiatives aimed at streamlining their respective regulatory environments and have pursued various bi-lateral Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) aimed at improving trade between partner jurisdictions – Newfoundland and Labrador has such an MOU with New Brunswick.

Legislation and Memorandums of Understanding

- In addition to the collective work undertaken by the CIT, in 2025, various Canadian jurisdictions sought to unilaterally advance internal trade. This saw twelve legislative measures undertaken across ten jurisdictions - ten of which have received royal assent - introducing provisions for mutual recognition of goods, services, and labour credentials, streamlined licensing for certified workers, and in some cases exceeding CFTA commitments by offering faster certification timelines.
- In parallel, several non-binding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between April and July 2025, focusing on economic cooperation, mutual recognition frameworks, and direct-to-consumer alcohol sales, creating a dense network of bilateral and multilateral arrangements that seemingly reinforce political momentum. **Annex A** contains a list of the various internal trade MOUs and legislation jurisdictions have done in this space.



s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Party Specific Exceptions (PSEs)

- An exception is a specific provision within an agreement, treaty, or contract that explicitly states where the main rules do not apply.

- The fundamental purpose of exceptions is to give parties the necessary flexibility to manage risks, uphold specific domestic laws, or protect sensitive sectors while still participating in a broader agreement. They balance the main goals of the agreement, like opening up trade, with a government's right to regulate in the public interest such as protecting the environment or national security.
- In trade agreements, these exceptions are often called "reservations." A reservation is a formal declaration where a government lists specific existing laws, regulations, or entire economic areas, like offshore energy development, that are exempt from core obligations like non-discrimination or market access (the ability of a company's goods or services to be sold in another country's market without facing excessive restrictions). This enables governments to avoid violating the agreement when they prioritize certain domestic policy imperatives.
- The type of exception dictates how it functions. General exceptions apply to all parties and cover universal concerns like healthcare or taxation. PSEs are tailored to a specific party's unique circumstances or economy and are often structured into specific lists, as is the case with the CFTA, which clearly defines when a government can bypass the trade rules:
 - Annex I (Existing Measures "Grandfathered"): This list contains all the specific laws, regulations, and policies that are already in effect when the agreement is signed. The parties agree these existing laws are "grandfathered," meaning they are allowed to continue even if they break the new trade rules. [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
 - Annex II (Future Measures "Policy Space"): This list identifies specific sectors or activities (e.g., water services, specific cultural industries, or certain types of agriculture) where governments reserve the right to adopt new laws in the future that might conflict with the trade agreement. This provides "policy space," ensuring governments keep the flexibility to regulate sensitive areas as needed without violating the trade agreement.
- See **Annex B** for a summary of CFTA PSEs removed in 2025, **Annex C** overview of Newfoundland and Labrador PSE removals and narrowing, and **Annex D** for a listing of the Province's remaining PSEs and their function.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Analysis

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Legislation and MOUs

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

PSEs

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

-

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

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s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared/Reviewed By: J. Bonnell /J. Dredge/ M. Janes, ADM
Approved By: G. Skinner, DM

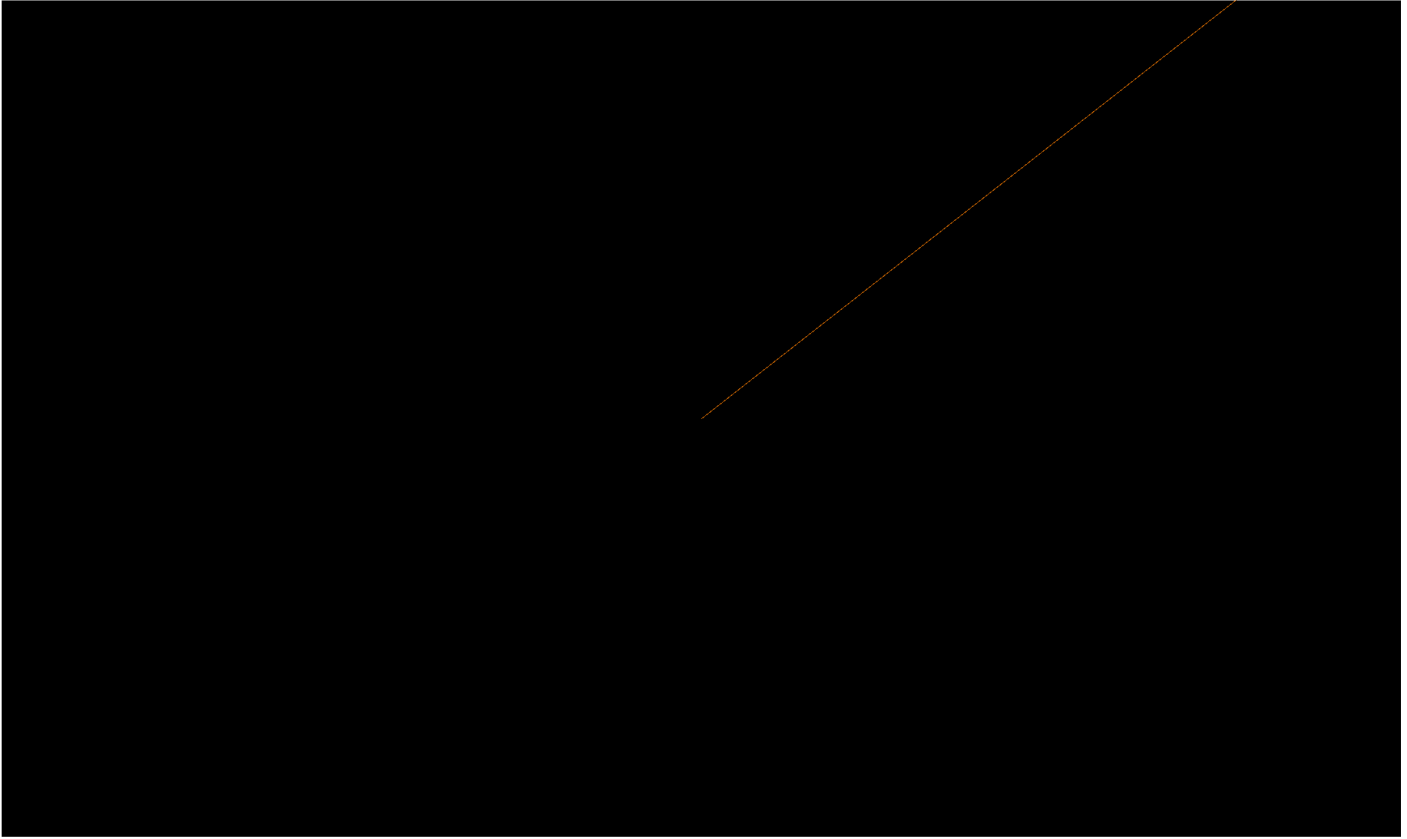
January 23, 2026

ANNEX A
Listing of the Legislation and MOUs Focused on Improving Internal Trade
(as of November 19, 2025)

Party	Legislation	MOU Partners
Nova Scotia	<i>Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act</i>	ON
New Brunswick	<i>An Act to Amend the Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act</i> <i>An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act</i> <i>Free Trade Within Canada Act</i>	ON, NL, MB, PE
Prince Edward Island	<i>Interprovincial Trade and Mobility Act</i>	ON, NB, MB, SK
Quebec	<i>Loi Favorisant le commerce des produits et la mobilité de la main-d'oeuvre en provenance des autres provinces et territoires du Canada</i>	
Ontario	<i>Protect Ontario through Free Trade within Canada Act</i>	NS, NB, MB, SK, AB, PE, BC, YK-NT-NU
Manitoba	<i>Fair Trade Within Canada Act</i>	ON, BC, PE, SK
Saskatchewan	<i>Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotions Act (Bill 24), titled An Act respecting the Removal of Trade Barriers to Goods and Services between Saskatchewan and other Jurisdictions within Canada</i>	ON, SK, PE
Alberta		ON, YK
British Columbia	<i>Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act</i>	ON, MB,
Canada	<i>Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act</i>	
Newfoundland and Labrador	<i>Fair Registration Practices Act</i>	NB

ANNEX B

s. 34(1)(a)(i)



ANNEX C**Previously Removed/Narrowed Exceptions by Newfoundland and Labrador**Labour Mobility PSE Removed in 2025

- **Licensed Practical Nurses:** The Province will no longer maintain an exception on the jurisdiction of QC, ON, NT, NY, YK for individuals who have not received specific education in health assessments or medication administration

PSEs Removed in 2022

- **Residential Cottage Licences:** The Province will no longer require permanent residency for the issuance of such licences under the Lands Act.
- **Special Project Orders:** Labour relations stability is not impacted as this PSE was deemed unnecessary. Project proponents and unions may still request Government issue a Special Projects Order.
- **Procurement:** Removal of an exemption that did not permit direct procurement for entities located outside the province.

PSEs Narrowed in 2022

- Removal of language in two PSEs which may have limited investors from using a specific type of legal entity in joint ventures related to the forestry, fishing and hunting sectors.

ANNEX D

Overview of Newfoundland and Labrador CFTA Exceptions

Type of Exception	Sector	Sub-sector	Description
Annex I – Exceptions for existing measures.			Annex I measures cannot be amended to be made more trade restrictive. They can be made more trade liberalizing, but parties cannot revert.
<p>1. Article 201 <i>(Non-Discrimination),</i></p> <p>Article 313 <i>(Performance Requirements)</i></p>	Energy	Electricity; and services incidental to energy distribution	<p>The above measures, inter alia, permit the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. regulate and issue various authorizations relating to the production, generation, development, transmission (including system control), distribution, delivery, supply, purchase, and export of electricity, and provide for the construction and maintenance of related facilities; 2. provide for the granting of the lands or waters within the domain of the Province for any good, source or force of energy from which it is possible to produce electricity, including to the installation of wind turbines and hydroelectric developments; and 3. set and modify rates for electricity. <p>Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such measures may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors, imposition of performance requirements and/or discrimination in favour of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and/or entities established in accordance 255 with the laws of Canada or a province or territory thereof and having a place of business and substantive operations within Newfoundland and Labrador.</p> <p>For greater certainty, this exception is not intended to extend to any obligation that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador may have under Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309. In the event of any inconsistency between this exception and Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309, the applicable provisions of Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309, as the case may</p>

			be, shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency
Type of Exception	Sector	Sub-sector	Description
<p>2. Article 201 (<i>Non-Discrimination</i>),</p> <p>Article 301 (<i>Right of Entry and Exit</i>),</p> <p>Article 307 (<i>Market Access – Services</i>) (for CPC 31 only),</p> <p>Article 312 (<i>Market Access – Investment</i>),</p> <p>Article 313 (<i>Performance Requirements</i>)</p>	Forestry	Wood in the rough; products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials; forestry and logging products; pulp, paper and paper products; manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; and manufacture of articles of straw, and plaiting materials on a fee or contract basis	The above measures allow the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to regulate and issue various authorizations relating to the production, extraction, and development of forestry resources and related products within the Province. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such measures may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors, limitations on market access, imposition of performance requirements and/or discrimination in favour of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and/or entities established in accordance with the laws of Canada or a province or territory thereof and having a place of business and substantive operations within Newfoundland and Labrador.
<p>3. Article 201 (<i>Non-Discrimination</i>),</p> <p>Article 313 (<i>Performance Requirements</i>)</p>	Agriculture		The above measures allow the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to regulate and issue various authorizations relating to the production and marketing of agricultural and food products and the marketing of fish products and wild fur within the Province. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such measures may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors, the imposition of performance requirements and/or discrimination in favour of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and/or entities established in accordance with the laws of Canada or a province or territory thereof and having a place of business and substantive operations within Newfoundland and Labrador.

Type of Exception	Sector	Sub-sector	Description
4. Article 313 <i>(Performance Requirements)</i>	Fisheries	Fish and other fishing products; prepared and preserved fish; wholesale trade services of fisheries products; and services incidental to fishing	The above measures allow the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to regulate and issue various authorizations relating to the production, processing, or marketing of fish and aquaculture fish products, including the transfer, delivery, or transmission of marine products by fish harvesters, aquaculturalists and subsequent purchasers. Such measures provide for the imposition of performance requirements in certain circumstances.
5. Article 201 <i>(Non-Discrimination)</i> , Article 307 <i>(Market Access – Services)</i> , Article 312 <i>(Market Access – Investment)</i>	Tourism	Services incidental to hunting; tourist guide agencies; and own-account hunting	Non-residents of Newfoundland and Labrador must employ licensed guides while undertaking certain licensed hunting activities within the Province. Non-residents of Newfoundland and Labrador are not permitted to obtain certain types of licences, and are required to obtain nonresident licences to undertake certain fishing activities within the Province.
6. Article 307 <i>(Market Access – Services)</i> , Article 312 <i>(Market Access – Investment)</i> , Article 313 <i>(Performance Requirements)</i>	Transportation	Rail transportation services	Any person seeking to purchase, operate, or construct a rail service within Newfoundland and Labrador must first obtain approval from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Such approval may be granted on terms and conditions the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador considers appropriate. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any such approval may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors including the imposition of performance requirements.
7. Article 307 <i>(Market Access – Services)</i> , Article 312 <i>(Market Access – Investment)</i> ,	Transportation	Other land transportation services	Public convenience and needs tests are applied to passenger transportation and to some subsectors of freight transportation within Newfoundland and Labrador. The criteria relating to approval by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador include the adequacy of current levels of service, market conditions

Article 313 (<i>Performance Requirements</i>)			establishing the requirement for the expanded service, the effect of new entrants on public convenience, and the fitness, willingness, and ability of the applicant to provide proper service. Performance requirements may be imposed.
Type of Exception	Sector	Sub-sector	Description
<p>8. Article 201 (<i>Non-Discrimination</i>) (<i>limited as per Description</i>),</p> <p>Article 301 (<i>Right of Entry and Exit</i>), Article 307 (<i>Market Access – Services</i>),</p> <p>Article 312 (<i>Market Access – Investment</i>),</p> <p>Article 313 (<i>Performance Requirements</i>)</p>	Alcoholic Beverages	Wholesale trade services of beverages; sale on a fee or contract basis of food products, beverages, and tobacco; retail sales of beverages not consumed on the spot; beverage serving services for consumption on the premises; alcoholic beverages; and manufacture of food and beverages on a fee or contract basis	The above measures permit the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to regulate and issue various authorizations relating to the production, distribution, supply, sale, and marketing of alcoholic beverages. The Newfoundland Liquor Corporation (the “NLC”) operates as a monopoly responsible for the distribution, supply, transport, sale, and marketing of alcoholic beverages. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such measures may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors, barriers on entry or exit, limitations on market access, and/or the imposition of performance requirements in favour of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and/or entities established in accordance with the laws of Canada or a province or territory thereof and having a place of business and substantive operations within Newfoundland and Labrador. With regard to the application of Article 201 (Non-Discrimination), this exception applies only in respect of the NLC’s policies regarding Brewers Agents and access to related retail outlets.
9. Article 201 (<i>Non-Discrimination</i>)	Professional Services	Legal services (notaries)	Only a Canadian citizen that is resident of Newfoundland and Labrador is eligible to become a notary public for the Province.
<p>10. Article 201 (<i>Non-Discrimination</i>),</p> <p>Article 301 (<i>Right of Entry and Exit</i>) (<i>only with respect to</i></p>	Cannabis	Cannabis; Wholesale trade services, including on a fee or contract basis; Retailing	1. The Federal Cannabis Act grants to the Provincial Government the ability to regulate the distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis products within the Province. The Cannabis Control Act establishes the statutory framework for the distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis products within the Province.

<i>paragraph 3 of the Description)</i>		services, including on a fee or contract basis	<p>The Liquor Corporation Act gives the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation the authority to buy, import and sell cannabis; control the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis; establish, maintain and operate cannabis stores; and issue licences for the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis.</p> <p>2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, these measures may involve discretionary decisions based on various factors and/or discrimination in favour of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador and/or entities established in accordance with the laws of Canada or a province or territory thereof and having a place of business and substantive operations within Newfoundland and Labrador.</p> <p>3. These measures also require that consumers in the Province purchase cannabis and cannabis products only through a retailer licensed in the Province or the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation. There are no import or export restrictions imposed on licensed cannabis producers located in the Province.</p>
Annex II – Exceptions for future measures			Annex II measures can be amended to be more trade restrictive or trade liberalizing.
Type of Exception	Sector	Sub-sector	Description
<p>1. Article 301 (<i>Right of Entry and Exit</i>),</p> <p>Article 307 (<i>Market Access – Services</i>),</p> <p>Article 312 (<i>Market Access – Investment</i>)</p>	Energy	Electrical energy; and services incidental to energy distribution	<p>The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador reserves the right to adopt or maintain any measure relating to the above subsectors that:</p> <p>(a) limits the number of covered investments or service providers, whether in the form of numerical quotas, monopolies, exclusive service providers, or the requirement of an economic needs test;</p> <p>(b) restricts or requires a specific type of legal entity or joint venture through which an investor may perform an economic activity; or</p> <p>(c) imposes restrictions or limitations on the movement of goods across Provincial Boundaries.</p>

			<p>For greater certainty, this exception is without prejudice to the right of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to impose limitations on the participation of foreign capital when selling or disposing of its equity interests in, or the assets of, an existing government enterprise or an existing government entity.</p> <p>For greater certainty, this exception is not intended to extend to any obligation that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador may have under Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309. In the event of any inconsistency between this exception and Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309, the applicable provisions of Article 309 or Section 2 of Annex 309, as the case may be, shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.</p>
<p>2. Article 307 <i>(Market Access – Services),</i></p> <p>Article 312 <i>(Market Access – Investment)</i></p>	Forestry	<p>Forestry and logging products; forest resource processing; services incidental to agriculture, hunting and forestry; and manufacture of paper and paper products, on a fee or contract basis</p>	<p>The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador reserves the right to adopt or maintain any measure relating to the above subsectors that:</p> <p>(a) limits the number of covered investments or service providers, whether in the form of numerical quotas, monopolies, exclusive service providers, or the requirement of an economic needs test;</p> <p>For greater certainty, this exception is without prejudice to the right of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to impose limitations on the participation of foreign capital when selling or disposing of its equity interests in, or the assets of, an existing government enterprise or an existing government entity.</p>
<p>3. Article 301 <i>(Right of Entry and Exit),</i></p> <p>Article 307 <i>(Market Access – Services),</i></p>	Fishing and Hunting	<p>Edible products of animal origin; raw skins of other animals; fish and other fishing products;</p>	<p>The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador reserves the right to adopt or maintain any measure relating to the above subsectors that:</p> <p>(a) limits the number of covered investments or service providers, whether in the form of numerical quotas,</p>

<p>Article 312 (Market Access – Investment)</p>		<p>other meat and edible offal, fresh, chilled or frozen; animal oils and fats, crude and refined; tanned or dressed fur skins; prepared and preserved fish; sales on a fee or contract basis of food products, beverages and tobacco; wholesale trade services of fishery products</p>	<p>monopolies, exclusive service providers, or the requirement of an economic needs test; or 307 (b) imposes restrictions or limitations on the movement of goods across Provincial boundaries.</p> <p>For greater certainty, this exception is without prejudice to the right of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to impose limitations on the participation of foreign capital when selling or disposing of its equity interests in, or the assets of, an existing government enterprise or an existing government entity.</p>
<p>4. Article 307 (Market Access – Services), Article 312 (Market Access – Investment)</p>	<p>Food, Beverage and Drug Industries</p>	<p>Liquor, wine and beer stores</p>	<p>The Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act (Canada) gives each provincial government an import monopoly on any intoxicating liquors entering its territory. The <i>Liquor Corporation Act</i> establishes the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation (the “NLC”) and bestows on the NLC an import and sales monopoly on intoxicating liquors entering Newfoundland and Labrador.</p>
<p>5. Article 307 (Market Access – Services), Article 312 (Market Access – Investment)</p>	<p>Cannabis</p>	<p>Cannabis; Wholesale trade services, including on a fee or contract basis; Retailing services, including on a fee or contract basis; All other cannabis-related services not</p>	<p>The Federal <i>Cannabis Act</i> grants to the Provincial Government the ability to regulate the distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis products within the Province. The <i>Cannabis Control Act</i> establishes the statutory framework for the distribution and sale of cannabis and cannabis products within the Province. The <i>Liquor Corporation Act</i> gives the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation the authority to buy, import and sell cannabis; control the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis; establish, maintain and operate cannabis stores; and issue licences for the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis.</p>

		covered by B, C, D, and E	
Procurement Chapter Exceptions			Procurement exceptions enable specific procurement activities to occur outside of the CFTA procurement rules.
A – Excluded Entities	1. Research & Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador and any subsidiary thereof		CFTA procurement rules therefore do not apply to the Research and Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador and any subsidiary thereof.
B – Exceptions and Notes	1. Exclusion for certain Nalcor procurements		<p>Subject to otherwise applicable exceptions, this Chapter covers procurements undertaken by Nalcor Energy and any of its existing or future subsidiaries or affiliates (collectively “Nalcor”)</p> <p>(a) All procurements undertaken by Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro above the applicable monetary thresholds;</p> <p>(b) All procurements undertaken by any other Nalcor entity above the applicable monetary thresholds, except for:</p> <p>(i) Any procurements that relate to the oil and gas sector;</p> <p>(ii) Any construction-related procurements where work on the applicable construction project has commenced prior to the effective date; and</p> <p>(iii) With regard to construction projects where work on the project commences after the effective date, Nalcor reserves the right to derogate from the Chapter for up to 30 percent of construction-related procurement on the project, based on total value of all construction-related procurement undertaken on the project;</p>
	2. Regional Economic		Any of Newfoundland and Labrador’s covered entities may derogate from this Chapter in order to promote regional

	Development Exception		<p>economic development, subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) Any procurement qualifying for a derogation pursuant to this paragraph shall:</p> <p>(i) be of a total value estimated at \$1 million, or less; and</p> <p>(ii) support small firms or employment opportunities in non-urban areas. 73</p> <p>(b) If the procurement meets the requirement of subparagraph (a)(ii) but its total value exceeds \$1 million, the value of that part of the contract that would be affected by the derogation will not exceed \$1 million.</p> <p>(c) Newfoundland and Labrador's covered entities may not derogate pursuant to this paragraph more than ten times in total per calendar year.</p> <p>(d) A procurement will not qualify for a derogation pursuant to this paragraph if it is funded by the Government of Canada.</p> <p>(e) Newfoundland and Labrador will notify the other Parties of any derogation taken pursuant to this paragraph at least 30 days prior to the signing of the relevant procurement contract. Such notice will include:</p> <p>(i) details of the circumstances justifying a derogation pursuant to this paragraph;</p> <p>(ii) information regarding the name of the firm(s) and/or area(s) where the procurement is expected to provide regional economic benefits; and</p> <p>(iii) an explanation as to how the procurement complies with the requirements of this paragraph.</p>
Labour Mobility Exceptions			Labour Mobility provisions of the CFTA state that certified workers have to be

			recognized as qualified to work by a regulatory body in another province or territory which regulates that occupation, without having to go through significant additional training, work experience, examination or assessment, unless an exception has been posted.
All Jurisdictions	Lawyers	Jurisdiction to which Exception Applies: Common Law Jurisdictions: QC Civil Law Jurisdictions: All PTs except QC	As a result of the Quebec Act of 1774, Canada has developed two systems of law: the common law, which applies to all public law matters throughout Canada and to matters of private law everywhere except Quebec.
Newfoundland and Labrador	Dental Hygienists	Jurisdiction to which Exception Applies: NU, YK	Graduation from an accredited Dental Hygiene program and/or successful completion of the national exam or equivalent demonstrates that an individual has the competencies required to perform to the Newfoundland and Labrador dental hygiene scope of practice.
Newfoundland and Labrador	Social Workers	Jurisdiction to which Exception Applies: SK, AB	There are material differences in the scope of practice of social workers in Newfoundland and Labrador and those in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Although there is overlap in the curricula of diploma/certificate social work programs and a Bachelor of Social Work degree, four significant differences between the programs have been identified: intensity, breadth, theory and research.

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Building Codes

Issue: To provide an overview of building codes as related to internal trade initiative

Background:

- At the November 19 meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT), Ministers directed senior officials to identify potential priority sectors for future internal trade work, including housing, construction, and trade-related infrastructure. [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Analysis:

s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED] under the Reconciliation Agreement on Construction Codes, which the Province signed in June 2021. Under this Agreement, Parties committed to:
 - 1) Reducing or eliminating differences and variations in the technical provisions of Construction Codes;
 - 2) Providing for the timely adoption of Construction Codes;
 - 3) Transforming the National Code Development System to better meet Parties' needs; and
 - 4) Providing free, unlimited digital access to Construction Codes.
- Following signature of the Agreement, all jurisdictions, including Newfoundland and Labrador, undertook to reduce their variations and exceptions to the National Codes over time. Importantly, after January 1, 2025, no new variation or exception may be adopted unless it meets the Agreement's definition of a legitimate objective.
- Newfoundland and Labrador has already adopted the National Building Code of Canada and the National Fire Code of Canada, and has substantially adopted the National Plumbing Code.
- Oversight of the adoption of the National Building Code and the National Fire code is a shared responsibility at the provincial and municipal levels. Since the signing of the Reconciliation Agreement, the 2025 National Building Code has been released. [REDACTED]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

- PTs maintain constitutional authority over building standards and safety and therefore control how and when they adopt or amend the National Model Codes.

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared by: M. Janes, ADM (*in consultation with GS*)

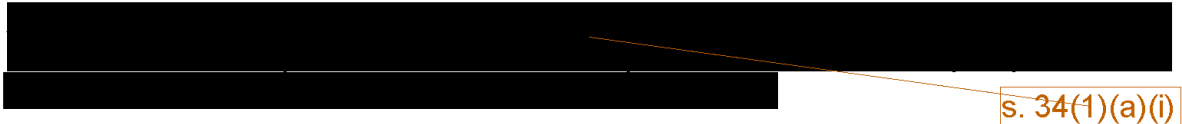
Reviewed by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat

Title: Major Projects (Projects of National Interest)

Issue:



s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Background and Current Status:

- Advancing major projects is an ongoing focus of FPT governments as a means to grow and diversify Canada’s economy and mitigate the effects of tariffs imposed by the United States (U.S.). This focus was reflected in the federal ministerial mandate letter and throne speech.
- Federal actions to advance major projects include:
 - Enacting the **Building Canada Act** (the Act), which aims to advance designated projects through an accelerated process that enhances regulatory certainty and investor confidence while protecting the environment and respecting Indigenous rights.
 - Establishing a Major Projects Office (MPO) to offer proponents coordination with funding partners and relevant federal departments and agencies, guidance on assessment, regulatory, and permitting requirements, guidance on Indigenous partnership and engagement, solutions identification, and project monitoring and oversight.
 - Establishing an Indigenous Advisory Council to work with the MPO.
 - Committing to sign cooperation agreements with interested jurisdictions to achieve a “one project, one review” approach to environmental assessments.
- Prime Minister Carney has announced a total of 11 projects referred to the MPO for consideration in two tranches—representing a combined investment of \$116 billion—and six potentially “transformative strategies” requiring further development. To date, no projects have received designation under the Act. See **Annex A** for a list of projects.
- On November 27, 2025, Prime Minister Carney and AB Premier Smith signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen energy collaboration, with a focus on enabling the construction of one or more private sector-funded pipelines to facilitate the export of AB bitumen to Asia. AB will act as proponent for the proposal with South Bow, Enbridge, and Trans Mountain participating in a technical advisory group. AB launched an information hub for the “Northwest Coast Oil Pipeline” on January 6, 2026.
- Under the Canada - AB MOU, Canada commits to, among other things, not implementing the Oil and Gas Emissions Cap, immediately suspending the **Clean Electricity Regulations** in AB pending a new carbon pricing agreement, extending federal investment tax credits (ITCs), and declaring that an AB pipeline to Asian markets is a project of national interest which can be referred to the MPO for consideration of designation under the Act.
- BC Premier Eby and BC First Nations have expressed strong opposition to the proposal, particular concerning potential amendments to the **Oil Tanker Moratorium Act** contemplated under the MOU. During a January 6, 2026 news conference, Premier Eby suggested a Canadian refinery would be a better use of taxpayer dollars.
- On January 8, 2026, AB Premier Smith sent a letter to the Prime Minister noting that recent events in Venezuela underscore the necessity of the pipeline to the pacific coast, as well as an expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. She called on the Prime Minister to accelerate approvals of nation-building projects to within six months of a project’s application and noted that AB intends to have their project application to the MPO by June.

- On January 13, 2026, Prime Minister Carney met with Coastal First Nations in BC where he committed to renewing funding for the Oceans Protection Plan Reconciliation Framework Agreement (RFA) in 2026-27 and directed ministers to work with all RFA partners to present a five-year funding pathway by the spring. A readout noted the federal government will also fund a Marine Traffic Risk Assessment study, extend the leases on two Emergency Towing Vessels (ETVs) until 2028, and ensure ETV capacity is consistent with shipping activity.
- On January 18, 2026, the Prime Minister met with the Amir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to discuss increasing trade, commerce, investment, and security cooperation. The leaders released a joint statement in which Qatar affirmed its commitment to make significant strategic investments in Canada's nation-building projects.

Analysis:

- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- Of the referred projects announced to date, only the Sisson Mine in NB is in Atlantic Canada. However, the Prime Minister's September 2024 announcement included several Atlantic region references as strategies with future transformative potential (e.g., critical minerals and the Churchill Falls/Gull Island hydroelectric developments for Newfoundland and Labrador). s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- [REDACTED]

Critical Minerals Strategy

- The Prime Minister indicated the MPO would dedicate itself to the development of regulations, financing, structure, and value chains to accelerate Canada's production and processing of highly strategic critical minerals, including those in Ontario's Ring of Fire, the Slave Geological Area in the Northwest Territories, and the Labrador Trough.
- Newfoundland and Labrador has significant potential in the area of critical minerals, with 34 minerals identified as critical including nickel, copper, cobalt and high-grade low impurity iron ore. In 2023, the Province released a critical minerals plan to maximize the value of Newfoundland and Labrador's critical minerals resources. [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Atlantic Energy Theme

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- To support Wind West, NS released a strategic plan which proposes reviving Clean Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) and confirming access to the Canada Infrastructure Bank's low-interest financing. NS Premier Houston met with federal Energy and Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodgson and Prime Minister Carney on October 1 and 2, 2025, to discuss the benefits of Wind West.

- On December 31, 2025, media reported on a proposal by John Risley's Clean Grid Atlantic, in partnership with Pattern Energy, to pursue a \$16-billion subsea and overland transmission network to connect western Newfoundland's wind resources with Hydro-Québec and U.S. markets, positioning the province as a major renewable energy exporter and improving regional grid resilience. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Risley stated that his team is in weekly discussions with the MPO, with a final investment decision expected in 12 to 18 months.

s. 29(1)(a)

- Risley's World Energy GH2 (WEGH2) project was a successful proponent in the Province's Call for Bids (CFB) for Wind-Energy Projects in 2023 and had been proposing a wind-hydrogen project on the province's west coast. [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared/Reviewed by: M. Philpott/C. Kenny/J. Barnes *(with input from EM)*

Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

ANNEX A**Projects and Strategies Referred to the MPO**

	Project	PT	Short description/benefits
1	LNG Canada Phase 2	BC	Double LNG Canada's production and create the second-largest facility of its kind in the world.
	Darlington New Nuclear Project	ON	Power 300,000 homes and sustain 3,700 jobs annually over 65 years.
	Contrecoeur Terminal Container Project	QC	Expand the Port of Montreal's capacity by 60 per cent and generate \$140 million annually in economic benefits.
	Mcllvenna Bay Foran Copper Mine Project	SK	Supply copper and zinc and create 400 jobs.
	Red Chris Mine expansion*	BC	Extend mine lifespan by more than 10 years, increase Canada's copper production by more than 15 per cent, and employ 1,500 during operations.
2	North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL)*	BC	Enable transformative new industrial projects and connect YK's isolated grid to the Canadian grid through BC.
	Ksi Lisims LNG	BC	Become Canada's second largest and one of the world's lowest-emission LNG operations.
	Canada Nickel's Crawford Project	ON	Produce high-quality, low-carbon nickel and attract \$5 billion in investment.
	Nouveau Monde Graphite's Matawinie Mine	QC	Provide important inputs for defence applications and battery supply chains, create over 1,000 new careers and draw \$1.8 billion in investment.
	Northcliff Resources' Sisson Mine	NB	Produce tungsten, an essential critical mineral for high-strength steel production, defence, and industrial applications.
	Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Hydro Project	NU	Replace reliance on 15 million litres of imported diesel annually.
Other	Critical Minerals Strategy	All	Help more critical minerals projects get to final investment decisions within a two-year window.
	Wind West Atlantic Energy	NS+	60 GW offshore wind potential in NS and more across Atlantic Canada.
	Pathways Plus	AB	Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) project and pipeline.
	Arctic Economic and Security Corridor	YK NT NU	An all-weather, dual-use, land and port-to-port-to-port infrastructure project contributing to defence and northern development.
	Port of Churchill Plus	MB	Upgrade the Port of Churchill and expand trade corridors with an all-weather road, an upgraded rail line, a new energy corridor, and marine ice-breaking capacity
	Alto High-Speed Rail	ON QC	Canada's first high-speed railway, spanning approximately 1,000 km from Toronto to Québec City.

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Cooperation Agreements/One Project, One Review

Issue:

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Background and Current Status:

- Advancing major projects and streamlining project reviews is an ongoing focus of federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) governments as a means to grow and diversify Canada's economy and mitigate the effects of tariffs imposed by the United States. This focus was reflected in the federal throne speech on May 27, 2025.
- According to the federal government, implementing "one project, one review" would streamline planning, reduce duplication, reduce burden for proponents and other participants, and increase efficiency and certainty of the assessment process in instances where both provincial and federal EA processes are required.
- Premiers previously indicated their support for "one project, one review" in a manner that respects provincial and territorial (PT) jurisdiction. In the July 22 Council of the Federation communique, Premiers welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to ensuring all federal assessment decisions are rendered within two years and insisted the "one project, one review" process must eliminate overlap and duplication and defer to PT jurisdictions and processes.
- Since these commitments, cooperation agreements have been executed between Canada and New Brunswick (NB) on December 16, 2025, and between Canada and Ontario (ON) on December 18. Public consultations have also been completed on draft agreements with Manitoba (MB) and Prince Edward Island (PE). British Columbia (BC) has had a cooperation agreement with the federal government since 2019.
- Additionally, Canada and Alberta (AB) committed to negotiating a cooperation agreement on or before April 1, 2026, through their memorandum of understanding on energy cooperation signed on November 27, 2025.
- In addition to pursuing "one project, one review," the federal government is advancing major projects through legislation and other measures, including the **Building Economy Act** and Major Projects Office. See background note on major projects in **this tab**.

Analysis:

• [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

• [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

• [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

- ECC advises that substitution is not currently authorized under the provincial **Environmental Protection Act** (EPA). However, provincial legislation does allow the ECC minister, with approval of the LGIC, to enter into an agreement with another province or territory or with Canada with respect to EAs.

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- IRR notes the following:

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 30(1)(b), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

[Redacted]

- EM notes the following:

s. 29(1)(a)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(v)

- Some PTs have expressed concerns that the IAA exceeds federal jurisdiction. Most recently, AB filed a court action on June 6, 2025, with regards to the constitutionality of the IAA as amended in 2024. AB sought other PTs to intervene in the court case, and Saskatchewan announced it would intervene in support of the legal challenge. [Redacted] ON and AB submitted a joint letter on June 30 again calling for the repeal of the IAA.

s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared/Reviewed by: M. Philpott/C. Kenny/J. Barnes *(in consultation with ECC, EM, and IRR)*
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Defence and Military Affairs

Issue:



s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Background and Current Status:

Venezuela

- On January 3, 2026, the United States (U.S.) conducted a military operation in Venezuela, including airstrikes and special forces actions in Caracas, capturing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife. They were brought to the U.S. to stand trial for narco-terrorism, weapons trafficking, and related crimes. They have pleaded not guilty in a New York court.
- U.S. officials accused President Maduro's government of supporting drug trafficking and alleged the regime was linked to narcotics flowing into the U.S. In September 2025, the U.S. began targeting Venezuelan boats suspected of carrying drugs, which escalated to seizing Venezuelan oil tankers. Following the January 2026 military operation, Venezuela will ship sanctioned oil to the U.S. indefinitely, with an initial amount of 30 to 50 million barrels of oil. President Trump has said the money will be used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the people of the U.S.
- On January 15, 2026, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, announced the U.S. was securing approximately 30 per cent higher prices for Venezuelan oil, compared to what Venezuela was selling the oil for before the military operation. The first sales of Venezuelan crude oil were for \$500 million USD.
- President Trump claimed the U.S. took action against Venezuela as the Maduro government was involved in activities that endangered U.S. security, including using oil profits to fund illegal activities. However, President Trump also claimed that seizing and restructuring Venezuela's oil sector was a core U.S. objective to prevent Russia or China from gaining influence over Venezuela's significant oil reserves.

Greenland

- The U.S. claims that Greenland's position between North America, Europe, and the Arctic makes it vital for U.S. military security, early-warning systems, and North Atlantic mobility. The U.S. has expressed growing concern about Russian naval and missile activity and growing Chinese interest in Arctic infrastructure. Greenland also has rich deposits of natural resources, including oil, gas, and critical minerals.
- President Trump and his administration suggest that if the U.S. does not strengthen control of Greenland, Russia or China will gain a strategic foothold in the Arctic, indicating this is a broader strategy to "solidify the Western Hemisphere" and prevent adversaries from gaining Arctic advantage. The U.S. also considers Greenland necessary for its Golden Dome missile shield because of its strategic position along potential missile flight paths from Russia.
- The U.S. has proposed a range of options for acquiring Greenland, including buying the territory, but have ruled out military action in recent days. Greenland's Prime Minister has been clear that Greenland does not want to be owned or governed by the U.S. Denmark's Prime Minister has warned that a U.S. attack or forced takeover "would be the end of NATO." World leaders from the European Commission, France, Germany, the United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Poland, Spain, and Canada have taken a united position that reaffirms the need to respect Greenland's and Denmark's sovereignty.

- On January 14, 2026, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt met with U.S. Vice-President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss the U.S. threats to Greenland. There continues to be fundamental disagreement between the nations; however, a working group has been established to promote communication and avoid escalation. Meetings of this group are anticipated to take place in the coming weeks.
- NATO members such as Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands have deployed troops to Greenland as a direct response to President Trump's threats to seize or militarily control the territory, and to signal collective defense, deter escalation, and reinforce Arctic security. Canada and the UK have stated strong support for Greenland and Denmark but have not deployed troops at the time of writing.
- On January 17, 2026, President Trump announced Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, and Finland would face a 10 per cent import tax on goods starting February 1, 2026 because of their opposition to American control of Greenland. This tariff could increase to 25 per cent by June 1, 2026.
- In response to President Trump's import tax threats, European leaders have suggested they will suspend work on the EU-U.S. trade deal. EU Parliament had been set to vote on removing many EU import duties on January 26-27, 2026. French President, Emanuel Macron, has also suggest the EU should consider use of the anti-coercion instrument which would limit U.S. access to public tenders, investments or banking activity, or restrict trade in services, including digital services.
- On January 21, 2026, President Trump spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and reiterated his intention to acquire Greenland, noting he would not use force to do so. Following his remarks, President Trump met with NATO chief Mark Rutte and later indicated they had reached a possible agreement regarding Greenland and that as a result, he no longer intended to impose tariffs on European nations opposed to his plans to acquire Greenland.

Canada

- President Trump has repeatedly criticized Canada's ability to defend its Arctic territory, focusing on what he views as vulnerabilities to Russia and China. President Trump has also insisted that Canada must spend more on defence to address these threats. Media is reporting that this critique is being used to bolster President Trump's administration's internal push for a broader U.S. Arctic strategy.
- Media has reported that the U.S. cannot build the Golden Dome without Canada because its northern radar, surveillance systems, and Arctic airspace are essential for detecting and tracking missiles from Russia or China headed toward the U.S. Prime Minister Carney has not confirmed Canada will participate in the Golden Dome but has acknowledged that Canada has engaged in talks with the U.S. about the program. President Trump has stated that Canada will need to pay \$71 billion USD to be included in the Golden Dome defence system.
- In July 2025, media reported that Minister of National Defence, David McGuinty, said Canada would explore air and missile defence capabilities and that Canada is talking with the U.S. about a continental shield. Further exploring integrated air and missile defence capabilities is part of Canada's North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) modernization efforts announced in 2022 (\$38.6 billion over 20 years).
- Of the NORAD modernization funding announced, \$15.68 billion has been allocated for investments in infrastructure and support capabilities across Canada, including upgrades at four Forward Operating Locations to ensure the infrastructure meets NORAD and Canadian

Armed Forces (CAF) military requirements. 5 Wing Goose Bay is one of the four Forward Operating Locations, with the remaining locations in Inuvik and Yellowknife (Northwest Territories) and Iqaluit (Nunavut).

- Prime Minister Carney's 2025 election platform included \$30.85 billion in defence spending over the next four years, in addition to previous spending announcements, focused on rebuilding the CAF, rearming the country, reinvesting in research and overhauling defence procurement, and Arctic sovereignty and prosperity.
- In March 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced Canada will be working with Australia to build an early warning radar system along the Canada-U.S. border into the Arctic. The \$6 billion investment is included in the NORAD modernization plan announced in 2022. The Prime Minister also announced an investment of nearly \$420 million to have a military presence in the Arctic all year round.
- In June 2025, Prime Minister Carney signed a strategic defence and security partnership with the European Union (EU). The agreement allows Canadian companies to participate in the \$1.25 trillion ReArm Europe program, which is seen as a step toward making Canada and Europe less reliant on procuring U.S.-made defence equipment. The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) program is one of the core pillars of the EU's ReArm Europe. Canada is the first non-European country to join SAFE.
- As part of Budget 2025, the federal government announced that it will launch a new Defence Industrial Strategy with the intention of ensuring Canada's defence investments are guided by a whole-of-government approach to building sovereign defence capacity. The Strategy will aim to create high-paying careers, opportunities for businesses, all while sourcing Canadian resources in the process.
- The announced Defence Industrial Strategy would aim to improve access to capital, drive research and development, bolster domestic supply chains, and grow critical resource stockpiles and includes \$4.6 billion in investment over the next 5 years. The Strategy is anticipated to be released early in 2026. Key initial investments proposed in the Strategy will include:
 - \$68.2 million over three years, starting in 2025-26, to DND, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the National Research Council (NRC), and the Communications Security Establishment to establish the Bureau of Research, Engineering and Advanced Leadership in Innovation and Science (BOREALIS);
 - \$1.0 billion in 2025-26 to create a new Defence and Security Business Mobilization Program at the Business Development Bank of Canada;
 - \$656.9 million over five years, starting 2025-26, to ISED to develop and commercialize dual civilian-military technologies in a range of industries including aerospace, automotive, marine, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, biodefence, and life sciences;
 - \$334.3 million over five years, starting in 2025-26, to ISED, NRC and the National Science and Engineering Research Council for a suite of measures to help anchor quantum technology companies in Canada;
 - \$443.0 million over five years, starting in 2025-26, to Natural Resources Canada and ISED to support the development of innovative critical minerals processing technologies, support joint investments with Allies in Canadian critical minerals projects, and develop a critical minerals stockpiling mechanism; and,
 - \$182.6 million over three years, starting 2025-26, to DND to establish a sovereign space launch capability.

NATO Spending Targets

- In response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and broader instability in the Middle East, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) agreed in 2014 to commit two per

cent of their national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to defence spending to help ensure the Alliance's continued military readiness.

- On June 9, 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced an investment of \$9.3 billion in 2025-26 for defence spending, enabling Canada to meet the NATO two per cent target this year. On June 25, 2025, Prime Minister Carney announced Canada has agreed to the new NATO defence investment pledge of five per cent of annual GDP by 2035. Once met, this commitment will include annual investment of 3.5 per cent of GDP for core military capabilities and 1.5 per cent of GDP in critical defence and security-related expenditures (e.g., new airports, ports, telecommunication, emergency preparedness systems, and other dual-use investments which serve defence as well as civilian readiness).
- Canada's Premiers have long recognized the importance of sovereignty and security in Canada's Arctic and have commended the Prime Minister for commitments to meeting NATO's defence spending targets.

Analysis:

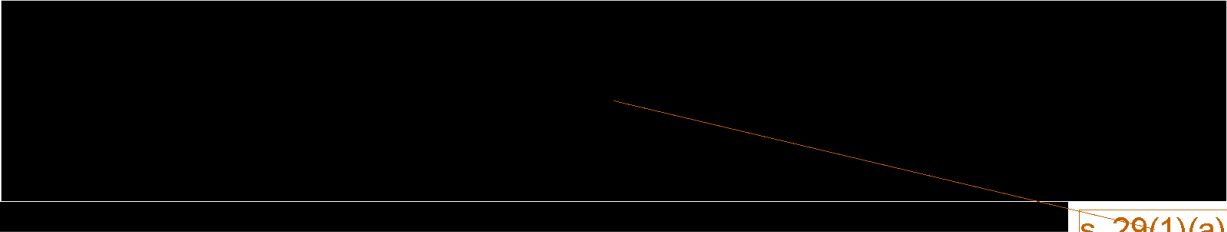
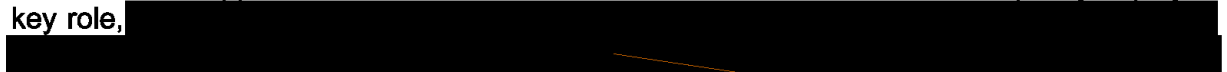
Venezuela



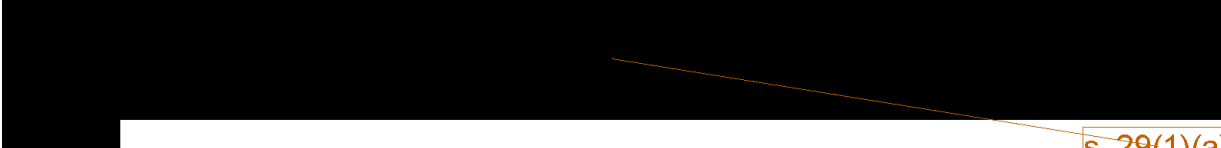
- On January 9, 2026, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith met with Prime Minister Carney and released a letter stressing that the Venezuela situation makes it urgent to fast-track approvals for a new 1-million-barrel-per-day pipeline to Canada's Pacific coast and an expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Alberta indicate they plan to apply to the Major Projects Office by June 2026 and seek federal approval by the fall. Premier Smith warned that delays will create a risk of PTs losing market share, investment, and Canada's competitive position.
- Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe reiterated Premier Smith's concerns, noting that Canada is now in a race to get oil to market faster than the U.S and Venezuela, and that the situation has heightened the need to enhance export capacity for Canadian crude.
- British Columbia Premier David Eby has said that while he is happy to work with the Alberta and federal governments on ensuring access to Tidewater, which transports refined petroleum products, he does not support taxpayers paying for another publicly owned pipeline across BC's north. Premier Eby added there is still no private sector proponent and that it may be time to pivot towards a refinery.
- Prime Minister Carney has stated that Canada is supportive of a peaceful, negotiated, and Venezuelan-led transition process that respects the democratic will of the Venezuelan people. Canada also urged all parties to respect international law.

Greenland

- Prime Minister Carney has said Canada is concerned about President Trump's threat to impose increasing tariffs on several European countries until they accede to his demand to purchase and control Greenland. Prime Minister Carney added that decisions about the future of Greenland are for Greenland and Denmark to decide. Canada is also preparing plans to send a small contingent of troops to Greenland for training exercises with NATO allies.
- Following the military operation, Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand announced she would travel to Nuuk, Greenland's capital, to open a Canadian consulate in the coming weeks. At Prime Minister Carney's request, Governor General Mary Simon will also travel to Greenland and Denmark in February.
- On January 22, 2026, Premier Wakeham spoke to Rotary St. John's where he highlighted the Province's location on Canada's eastern frontier as a vital strategic asset to the defence of Greenland.

Newfoundland and Labrador

- During his speech at the World Economic Forum on January 20, 2026, Prime Minister Carney emphasized that, in a world where great powers increasingly use economic and geopolitical coercion, countries like Canada must reinforce their own internal capacities to withstand uncertainty. Prime Minister Carney framed strengthening Canada's domestic economic, political, and security-related capacities as essential in the new geopolitical reality.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is poised to be a significant contributor to Canada's defence and prosperity. With its strategic location, proximity to international shipping lanes and northern sea routes, natural resources, including critical minerals, infrastructure, capabilities and expertise, it can serve as a strategic anchor for Canada and its allies at the intersection of the Arctic, Atlantic and North American defence domains.
- There are three key military installations in Newfoundland and Labrador that play a significant role in Canadian and international defense:
 - **5 Wing Goose Bay** – primary mandate is to provide support for NORAD operations, as well as joint and combined military training for CAF, Allied Forces, and NORAD partners.
 - **9 Wing Gander** – primary mandate includes search and rescue, signals intelligence, radar operations, and reserve and cadet support
 - **Garrison St. John's** – primary mandate includes support for Maritime Forces Atlantic naval operations, logistical and operational support for visiting NATO vessels, and support for local reserve units.
- 5 Wing Goose Bay is strategically located in Labrador and Canada's North and offers a vast 130,000 km² training area able to support various joint and combined military operations, including low-level and supersonic flight training, as well as sub-arctic ground and winter warfare exercises.
-  s. 29(1)(a)
- With the intense focus on national security and sovereignty, particularly in the Arctic, there will continue to be opportunities to advocate for Newfoundland and Labrador's capacity to play a key role,  Federal investment in dual-use infrastructure can both help protect the country and support the well-being of northern communities. s. 29(1)(a)
- Key capacities within Newfoundland and Labrador that can contribute to building Canada's domestic capacities include:
 - home to key military sites, including 5 Wing Goose Bay, which is part of Canada's NORAD modernization plan;
 - strategically positioned at the intersection of the Arctic and North Atlantic sea lanes, making it vital for continental defence, Arctic sovereignty, and trans-Atlantic security;
 - expertise in cold and harsh environments (operational and research and development);
 - businesses and a robust innovation ecosystem with established expertise in ocean technology, aerospace and defence, and other key industries;

- world-class educational institutions that provide leading research and a skilled workforce to support increasing economic activity, including the development of natural resources (e.g., oil and gas, mining, critical minerals); s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)
- 
- 
- experienced shipping and offshore supply and service capabilities;
- deepwater, ice-free ports, offshore expertise, and major fabrication sites for activities such as submarine support and shipbuilding;
- dedicated transportation infrastructure, including rail, shipping, and port development to get products to market and further increase the province's northern presence; and,
- strong relationships with Indigenous Governments and Organizations, including the Nunatsiavut Government in northern Labrador.
- In November, Premier Wakeham was in Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Carney and several federal Ministers including Minister McGuinty, Minister of National Defence. Premier Wakeham emphasized Newfoundland and Labrador's strategic advantages and abilities to contribute to the national and allied defence agenda. This was reiterated in follow-up correspondence, copies of which are included in this Tab.
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s. 29(1)(a)

Prepared/Reviewed by: N. Chancey / A. Ledwell / J. Barnes
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Federal Electricity Policy

Issue:

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Background and Current Status:

- The generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Canada falls primarily under provincial-territorial (PT) jurisdiction, with the federal government playing a supporting role by investing in research and development, developing regulations, and supporting the commercialization of new technologies.
- Over the past decade, the structure of the electricity industry has undergone significant change. Most provinces have unbundled the generation, transmission and distribution functions of electric utilities into separate organizations. As well, some provinces have moved towards a more competitive generation system with the private sector playing an increasing role, giving rise to independent power producers.
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) reports that electricity demand in Canada is expected to grow at an annual rate of one per cent between 2014 and 2040. Most of the growth in energy demand would come from the industrial sector, where overall energy demand is expected to grow at a rate of 0.7 per cent annually.
- In recent years, the federal government has implemented measures with an aim to help build a clean, reliable, and affordable electricity sector, such as the Clean Electricity Regulations, along with \$60 billion to advance decarbonizing the electricity system as part of the Clean Economy Plan, which is primarily comprised of Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) and Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) financing and targeted programming, including the Smart Renewables Electrification Program.
- The federal government has also introduced other action plans and strategies to support electrification and decarbonization, including the Hydrogen Strategy (2020) and Progress Report (2024), the Small Modular Reactors (SMR) Action Plan (2020) and Progress Update (2022), and the Canada Green Buildings Strategy (2024).

Clean Fuel Regulations

- Canada's Clean Fuel Regulations (CFR), in force since July 2023, require fossil fuel suppliers to gradually lower the lifecycle carbon intensity of gasoline and diesel used in the transportation sector, aiming for a 15 per cent reduction by 2030. The CFR uses a credit-trading system, with credits earned by lowering fossil-fuel carbon intensity, supplying low-carbon fuels, or providing energy for advanced vehicle technologies.
- Some Premiers have been vocally opposed to the CFRs, including a 2023 Council of Atlantic Premiers campaign calling on the federal government to rethink the implementation of the CFRs and to work with Premiers to develop a plan to address the disproportionate impacts on Atlantic Canadians.

Clean Electricity Strategy and Clean Electricity Regulations (CERs)

- In December 2024, the federal government released the Clean Electricity Strategy (the Strategy) outlining the key actions that Canada, in collaboration with PTs, Indigenous partners,

utilities, workers, and others, will pursue to decarbonize, expand, and modernize the electricity system, while acknowledging that there is still more to do, and that this work will continue to evolve.

- The Strategy focuses on three key areas, including: growing the grid and managing demand; providing policy certainty and smoothing the path; and, collaborating on tailored approaches for every region. The Strategy is underpinned by six principles to guide federal action to support electricity grid decarbonization and expansion:
 1. Provincial and territorial jurisdiction is respected and supported with policy certainty;
 2. Electricity must remain reliable and affordable;
 3. Electricity demand and supply must be considered equally;
 4. Canadian industries, investors, and workers must have the power needed to build Canada's industrial future;
 5. Northern, Indigenous, and remote communities must benefit from a flexible approach that reflects their unique opportunities and challenges; and,
 6. Indigenous peoples and communities must be recognized as clean energy leaders.
- The CERs were finalized in December 2024 and came into force on January 1, 2025. The CERs are a key component of Canada's climate strategy, designed to achieve a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 through Annual Emissions Limits and to contribute to economy-wide net-zero emissions by 2050. Beginning in 2035, the CERs will set limits on carbon dioxide pollution from almost all electricity generation units that use fossil fuels. The CERs cover fossil fuel-burning units with a capacity of 25 megawatts or greater connected to an electricity system subject to North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards.
- Some provinces and territories (PTs), such as Alberta (AB) and Saskatchewan (SK), have argued the CERs are unconstitutional and infringe on provincial jurisdiction. In the Canada-AB Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on energy cooperation, signed in November 2025, Canada committed to immediately suspending the CERs in AB pending a new carbon pricing agreement. See major projects note in **Tab 6** for more information.

Federal Budget 2025

- Federal Budget 2025 included many key commitments related to electricity policy and electrification, including, but not limited to:
 - Reiterating that through the Major Projects Office (MPO), the federal government is helping to develop transformative energy and trade corridors (see background note on major projects in **Tab 6** for more information);
 - Confirming the federal government's intention to proceed with implementing the Clean Electricity ITC and proposing to remove the conditions imposed on PT governments for their Crown corporations to be eligible;
 - Confirming implementation of the Clean Hydrogen ITC;
 - Extending full Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) ITC rates to 2035 and maintaining existing rates through 2040;
 - Expanding eligible minerals for the Clean Technology Manufacturing credit; and,
 - Beginning consultations on domestic-content requirements for clean technology and clean electricity credits.

Provincial-Territorial Context

- The July Council of the Federation communique noted that Canada's energy landscape is diverse and that Premiers are dedicated to working alongside the Prime Minister in positioning Canada as a global energy superpower. It also noted that developing pipelines and corridors

that can get energy, oil and gas, electricity, critical minerals and other products to market within the country and to ports connected to tidewater, including to key Asian and European markets, will strengthen energy security and drive economic growth.

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- Over the past five years, many provinces have released energy plans and strategies that include electricity goals. See **Annex A** for more information.

Analysis:

- Over 92 per cent of electricity consumed in Newfoundland and Labrador is generated from renewable energy resources. The province has approximately [Redacted] of surplus energy per year beyond domestic needs and NL Hydro's contractual export obligations. This surplus is available primarily during the summer months. See **Annex B** for more information on the province's electricity capacity and grid connections.

s. 29(1)(a)

Clean Fuel Regulations

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

[Redacted] Newfoundland and Labrador is exempt from volumetric blending requirements, but its suppliers must still meet carbon-intensity obligations through credits. Associated costs are passed on to consumers through regulated fuel pricing. The cost at the pump in Newfoundland and Labrador is 5.4 cents per litre for gas and 6.02 cents per litre for diesel (plus HST).

- In September 2025, the federal government announced its intention to make targeted amendments to the CFR, including a minimum domestic content requirement for low-carbon fuels and/or a credit multiplier for fuels made in Canada. The goal is to address competitiveness pressures on Canada's biofuels sector affected by U.S. trade and tax policies and to support domestic production. [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Clean Electricity Regulations

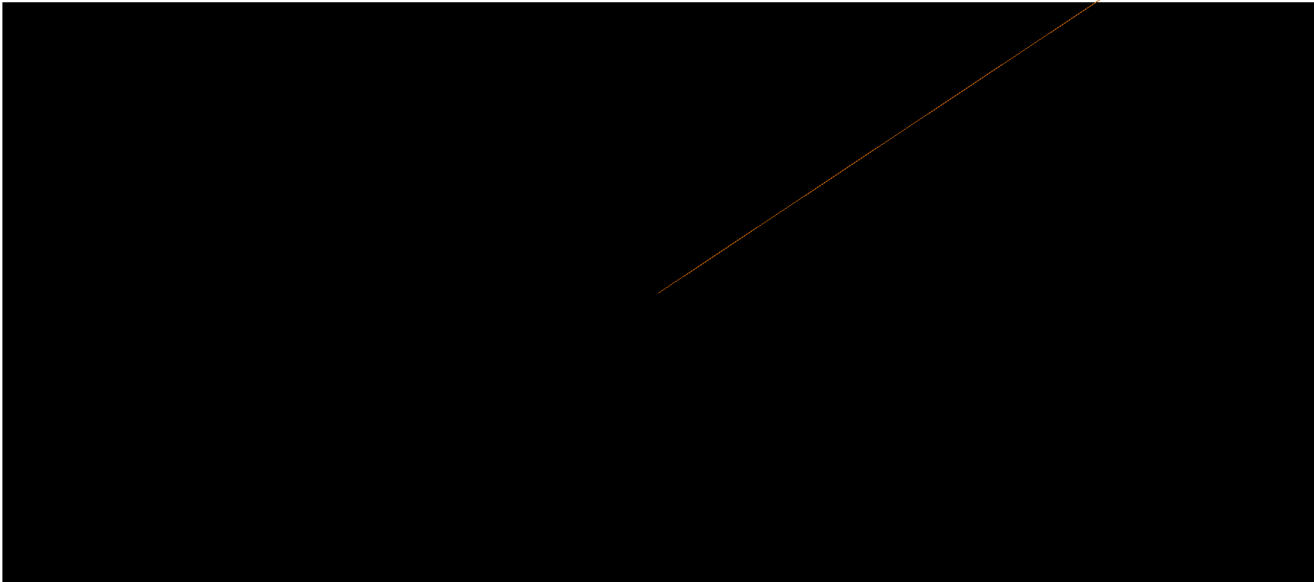
- EM notes that NERC standards are enforceable for bulk electricity grids in the continental U.S. and British Columbia (BC), AB, SK, Manitoba (MB), Ontario (ON), Québec (QC), Nova Scotia (NS) and New Brunswick (NB). While Newfoundland and Labrador's grid is not subject to NERC standards, the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada has previously clarified that the CERs still apply to Newfoundland and Labrador as the grid is connected to a NERC-subject grid.

- [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)



Prepared/Reviewed by: I. Carvalho/C. Kenny/J. Barnes (*with input from EM, ECC*)
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2025

ANNEX A

Overview of PT Energy Strategies

- Over the past five years, many provinces have released energy plans and strategies that include electricity goals, such as:
 - In November 2025, **Prince Edward Island** released the PEI Energy Strategy, which proposes upgrading and expanding transmission infrastructure of its electricity system to improve reliability and support clean energy growth. The strategy notes that enhancing regional cooperation between provinces to better align regional regulations, policy development, regulators, and planning is key to evolving energy systems more efficiently.
 - In October 2025, **Saskatchewan** released its Energy Security Strategy and Supply Plan, noting it will invest in transmission infrastructure to ensure safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance, as part of its annual capital sustainment program. Additionally, the provincial government will advocate for federal money to be invested in Saskatchewan for intra-provincial and interjurisdictional transmission to enhance reliability, affordability, energy security, and economic growth.
 - In June 2025, **Ontario** released its Energy for Generations Strategy with a range of actions to support energy efficiency, generation, storage and distribution, including competitive procurements and the largest nuclear buildout on the continent, while reaching more than 99 per cent zero-emissions electricity by 2050. The province will also focus on growing exports of Ontario-made electricity, nuclear technology, medical isotopes, and engineering expertise to global markets, while supporting east-west grid connections across Canada.
 - In September 2024, **Manitoba** released its Affordable Energy Plan with a focus on refurbishing existing hydro assets and improving transmission, as well as distribution efficiency to increase electrical generation, with potential capacity enhancements in the 200 megawatts (MW) range. Manitoba will pursue new electrical grid investments in partnership with the federal government to leverage federal programs and other supports to advance clean energy, low carbon transition.
 - In June 2024, **British Columbia** released its Clean Energy Strategy outlining its vision of a clean, competitive inclusive province powered by local clean energy with a goal of net zero emissions by 2050. The strategy highlights BC Hydro's investment of almost \$36 billion to upgrade the network of power plants, transmission lines, transformers and substations that generate electricity.
 - In December 2023, **New Brunswick** released its Path Forward to 2025 strategy with a goal of supporting economic growth and electrification by building 2500 MW of new clean electricity generation. Actions include maximizing the utilization of existing electricity infrastructure such as generation through cost-effective decisions for refurbishments and life extensions, as well as building the necessary transmission infrastructure to move electricity effectively through the province and exchanging power with neighboring jurisdictions.
 - In November 2023, **Quebec** released its Action Plan 2035, which aims to integrate new assets into the provincial electricity grid, combined with energy-efficiency and load-side management efforts, that can help meet additional capacity requirements of 8,000 to 9,000 MW. It also commits to invest between \$45 and \$50 billion by 2035 to increase the capacity of transmission systems in order to maximize access to new generation. Additionally, the

New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) transmission line was completed in January 2026. The NECEC project will deliver 1,090 MW of firm baseload power over a line capable of delivering up to 1,200 MW from Québec to New England. This line will serve as one of New England's largest sources of baseload power, strengthening grid reliability and lowering energy costs for consumers.

- In October 2023, **Nova Scotia** released its 2030 Clean Power Plan, a roadmap to phasing out coal use and targeting 80% clean electricity by 2030. Actions include adding nearly 2,000 MW of wind, solar and battery storage; strengthening reliability by expanding its transmission connection to New Brunswick; and modernizing the electricity grid will improve efficiency and resilience against extreme weather events.
- In April 2023, **Alberta** released its Energy Development Plan, which notes the province is reviewing its distribution and transmission policies to ensure ongoing reliability, affordability and coordinated efforts to increase efficiency. The plan emphasizes that given the significant cost of decarbonizing Alberta's electricity grid in comparison to other jurisdictions, the province is disproportionately impacted by federal policies like the CER. Alberta is advocating for meaningful federal financial support to maintain affordable, reliable electricity while moving toward low-emitting generation.

ANNEX B

Electricity Generation and Grid Connectivity in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Currently, over 92 per cent of electricity consumed in the province is generated from renewable energy resources. The province has approximately [REDACTED] of surplus energy per year beyond domestic needs and NL Hydro's contractual export obligations. This surplus is available primarily during the summer months. s. 29(1)(a)
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Interconnected System (NLIS) includes the Island Interconnected System and the Labrador Interconnect System, connected via the Labrador-Island Link (LIL). The NLIS connects to the North American grid via transmission interconnections between Churchill Falls and Hydro Quebec and via the Maritime Link between the Island and Nova Scotia. These lines supply energy to Hydro Quebec and Nova Scotia Power under long-term contracts – the Churchill Falls contract and Lower Churchill project agreements (Nova Scotia Block), respectively. s. 29(1)(a)
- In addition, NL Hydro holds [REDACTED] of firm transmission rights on the Hydro Quebec system that allow year-round export to the New York, New England, and Ontario wholesale energy markets and can also provide access to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia via New Brunswick. In addition to the [REDACTED] of firm transmission, NL Hydro can purchase non-firm transmission through the Hydro Quebec system to the same markets. s. 29(1)(a)
- NL Hydro holds [REDACTED] of transmission rights over the Maritime Link (ML), comprising [REDACTED] of firm capacity and [REDACTED] of non-firm capacity, subject to system conditions. A portion of the firm capacity – approximately [REDACTED] – is dedicated to delivering the Nova Scotia Block under the Energy and Capacity Agreement, which remains in effect until 2056. In addition, NL Hydro has firm export rights through Nova Scotia to New Brunswick [REDACTED] in winter and [REDACTED] in summer), and from New Brunswick to New England ([REDACTED] during the summer months). s. 29(1)(a)
- NL Hydro's 2024 financial statements show sales of 2.4 TWh for "Other Export" (i.e., surplus), 1.5 TWh for the NS Block, and 30.7 TWh for Hydro Quebec.
- Key undeveloped hydro resources include Bay d'Espoir expansion [REDACTED] Cat Arm expansion [REDACTED] Star Lake expansion [REDACTED] Churchill Falls expansion [REDACTED] Churchill Falls upgrades [REDACTED] and Gull Island [REDACTED]. NL Hydro's Island Hydroelectric Supply Refresh Study also identified additional Island small hydro sites ranging from [REDACTED] capacity with potential for development, subject to further feasibility studies. s. 29(1)(a)
- [REDACTED] NL Hydro is actively pursuing generation expansion through applications to the Public Utilities Board. [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Community Safety

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Issue:

Background and Current Status:

- In a joint statement following the June 2, 2025, First Ministers' Meeting in Saskatoon, SK, First Ministers emphasized the importance of joint efforts to maintain safe and secure communities, including by enhancing the criminal justice system through meaningful and urgent bail and sentencing reforms supporting law enforcement, addressing delays in the criminal justice process, and reviewing risk assessment for sentencing and release of repeat sex offenders and individuals charged with intimate partner violence and gender-based violence crimes.
- First Ministers also noted the devastating impact the illegal drug supply is having on Canadian communities and committed to dismantling the illicit drug trade, including fentanyl and its precursors.
- First Ministers directed federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice and Public Safety to bring forward an action plan to promote safe and vibrant communities for consideration at a future meeting.

Bail Reform

- Formerly referred to as Bill C-48, **An Act to amend the Criminal Code** (Bail Reform) received Royal Assent on December 5, 2023. The reforms came into force on January 4, 2024. The amendments targeted changes to the Criminal Code's bail regime to address serious repeat violent offending with firearms, knives, bear spray and other weapons. The changes made at the bail stage also address the enhanced risks posed by intimate partner violence.

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s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- At the July 2025 Summer Council of the Federation (COF) meeting, Premiers called for the federal government to amend the Criminal Code in a continued effort to ensure meaningful bail reform and work with PTs to measure the impact of these changes. Premiers also reaffirmed the need to review risk assessment for sentencing and post-incarceration release of repeat sex offenders and individuals charged with intimate partner violence and gender-based violence crimes.
- Bill C-14, **the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act**, was tabled in the House of Commons on December 3, 2025, and is currently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. This federal legislation proposes to expand reverse onus for serious offences, instruct Courts to reject bail if it's contrary to public interest or risks endangering victims or witnesses, enhance sentencing to require consecutive terms for repeat or violent offences, and broaden age thresholds for detention-eligible offences for youth.

- Bill C-16, the **Protecting Victims Act**, was tabled in the House of Commons on December 9, 2025, and is currently at second reading. This federal legislation proposes criminalizing coercive control in intimate relationships, considering femicide as first-degree murder, strengthening protections against sexual deepfakes, creates new offenses related to recruiting youth into crime, protecting animals from abuse as a form of partner abuse, and mandating better data preservation and reporting for child sexual abuse material from internet providers.

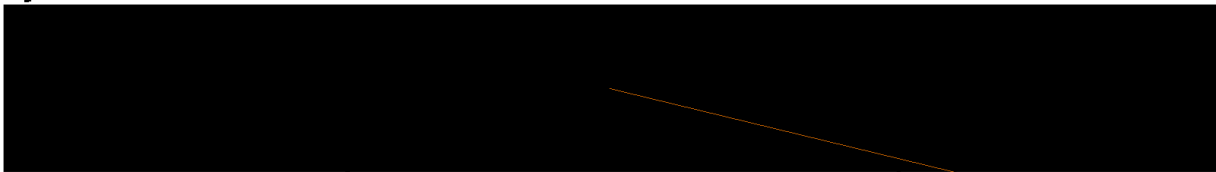

RCMP Contract Policing

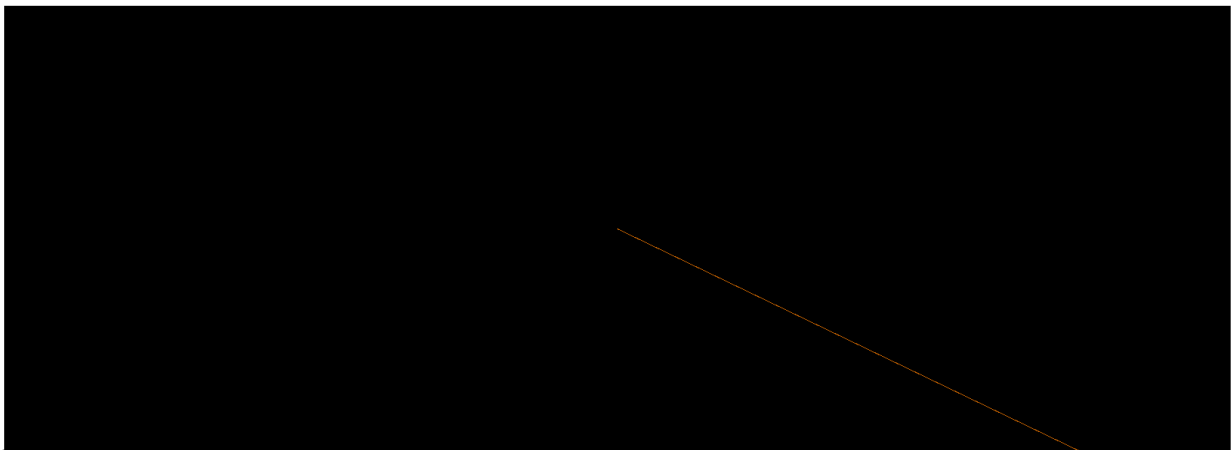

- In March 2025, former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released a white paper which proposes a significant shift in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) role, focusing more on federal policing responsibilities and suggesting a gradual transition away from contract policing in provinces and territories.

Border Security

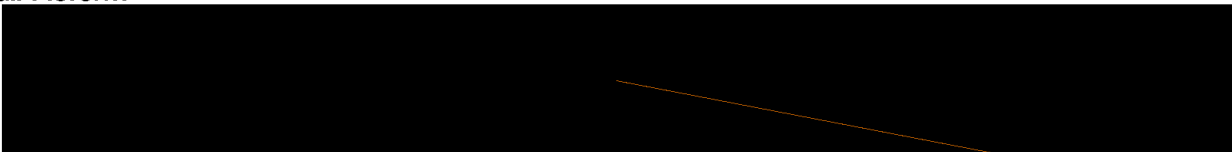
- Bill C-2, **An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States and respecting other related security measures** (the Strong Borders Act), was introduced by the federal government on June 3, 2025, and is currently paused at second reading in the House of Commons.
- Following concerns with specific privacy sections of the Bill, the federal government split Bill C-2 to accelerate the passage of urgent border and immigration security measures into Bill C-12, also known as the Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act. Bill C-12 proposes significant legislative changes aimed at strengthening Canada's border security, combatting transnational crime (particularly fentanyl trafficking), and modernizing immigration and asylum systems.

Analysis:

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 s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

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s. 34(1)(a)(i)
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Bail Reform

- 
s. 29(1)(a)

s. 29(1)(a)

• [Redacted]

• [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

• [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

• [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

• [Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

RCMP Contract Policing

- The RCMP serves as the police of jurisdiction in most provinces, the territories, 150 municipalities, and approximately 600 Indigenous communities. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

- The federal government has said they will continue to engage PTs in determining the future direction of federal and contract policing, noting that no formal decisions have been made in this regard. Stability and continuity in policing services are essential for communities and public safety, therefore, it is critical that PTs are engaged.

- The RCMP currently provides policing to 82 per cent of Newfoundland and Labrador's geography and 56 percent of its population, particularly in rural and remote areas. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

Border Security

• [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

• [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 34(1)(a)(iii)

s. 34(1)(a)(i)

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[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

- JPS advises that although there have been seizures of fentanyl powder in the St. John's area [Redacted] fentanyl seizures make up a very small portion of the opioid seizures in the province. Fentanyl is most prevalent in the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) jurisdiction, primarily the Northeast Avalon; [Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a)

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[Redacted]

s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Prepared/Reviewed by: N. Chancey / A. Ledwell / J. Barnes, ADM (*in consultation with JPS*)
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

**Information Note
Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat**

Title: Immigration

Issue: This note contains an overview of federal immigration priorities for 2026 and their implications for Newfoundland and Labrador.

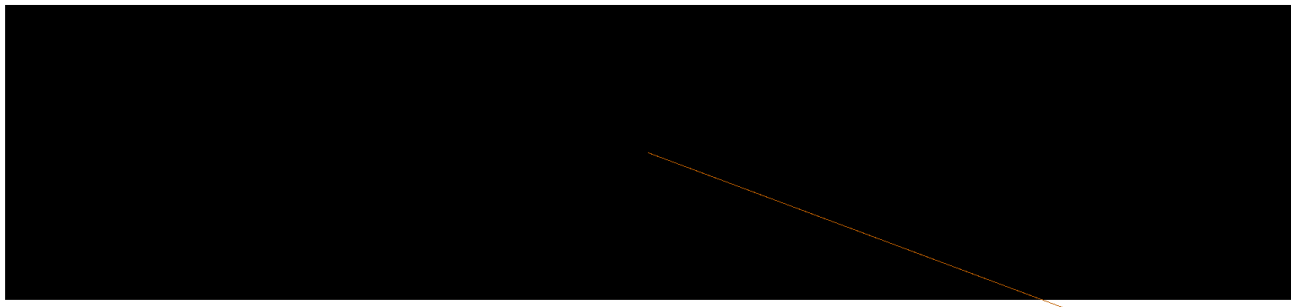
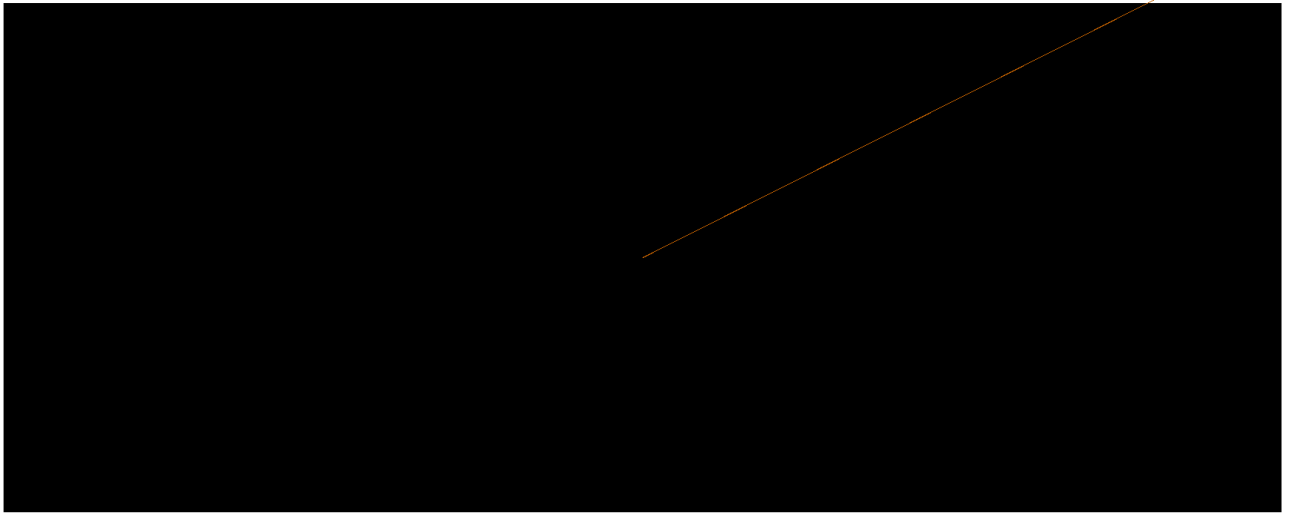
Background and Current Status:

- On November 5, 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released the 2026-28 Immigration Levels Plan (ILP) as part of Budget 2025. The ILP outlines permanent resident (PR) and temporary resident (TR) admission targets for the next three years for all immigration categories (economic, family, refugee, humanitarian and compassionate).
- The 2026-28 ILP sets tighter eligibility rules as well as caps on immigration numbers for 2026:
 - **Fewer PRs:** the 2026 target of 380,000 PRs is a slight drop from the 395,000 accepted in 2025 and a major shift from 2024, when more than 483,600 were welcomed. The number of new PRs is set to remain at 380,000 through 2028. It also prioritizes the admission of economic immigrants to meet labour shortages and government priorities in healthcare, social services, trade occupations, agriculture, education and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) occupations.
 - **Caps on temporary workers:** the federal goal is to reduce the number of temporary residents to less than 5 per cent of the country's total population by the end of 2027. Only 230,000 new temporary workers will be admitted in 2026, down from 367,750 in 2025.
 - **Caps on international students:** Canada plans to issue only 155,000 new student visas in 2026 and 150,000 in both 2027 and 2028; down from previous caps of 360,000 in 2024 and 437,000 in 2025. New international students also need to prove that they have enough money to live in Canada, the minimum now being \$22,895 yearly for single applicants, and an additional \$6,000 yearly for each accompanying family member.
 - **Emphasis on Canadian experience:** Canada intends to accelerate the transition of up to 33,000 temporary workers with Canadian experience to permanent residency in 2026 and 2027 to address labour shortages.
 - **Stricter rules for family members:** the number of new immigrants admitted under family reunification streams is set to 84,000 in 2026, then 81,000 in both 2027 and 2028. Work permits are only available to spouses of international students who are enrolled in a doctoral program, a master's program that is 16 months or longer, or select professional programs such as nursing, pharmacy, law or engineering.
 - **Increased francophone immigration:** Canada raised the target for new francophone permanent residents from 8.5 to 9 per cent and intends to grow these to 9.5 per cent in 2027 and 10.5 per cent in 2028. Canada will also reserve 5,000 federal selection spaces to allow provinces and territories (PTs) to designate French-speaking immigrants through regional immigration programs, such as Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs).
 - **Reduced admissions under Refugees and Protected Persons and Humanitarian classes:** the target for refugees, protected persons and those admitted on humanitarian grounds is set at 56,200 people in 2026 and is expected to drop again to 54,300 in both 2027 remaining at that number in 2028.

- **Tighter asylum rules:** Canada is proposing new rules that would make asylum claims ineligible if they are submitted more than one year after arriving in Canada or more than 14 days after crossing a land border from the U.S. The new rules are part of Bill C-12 (Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act), which, if passed, would also give authorities the power to immediately cancel immigration documents and applications.
- PTs receive an allocation of spaces from IRCC for each provincial immigration program they administer. Each space is an application that the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development (JGRD) will process through the Province's PNP or the Atlantic Immigration Programs (AIP). [REDACTED] s. 29(1)(a)
- **Annex A** offers information about additional federal changes to other immigration pathways with a direct impact on Newfoundland and Labrador

Analysis:

- [REDACTED] s. 34(1)(a)(i), s. 35(1)(d)
- Also on December 8, 2025, IRCC announced that 10,000 additional PNP spaces will be available nationally for Francophone candidates and credentialed physicians in 2026. PNP applications that meet these criteria will not count toward PTs allocations.
- In 2025, JGRD nominated 14 physicians and 81 French-speaking candidates. However, JGRD's statistic includes everyone who speaks French, while IRCC considers someone to be Francophone if "the candidate's primary and/or mother tongue is French". s. 34(1)(a)(i)



s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

- In February 2025, JGRD implemented an Expression of Interest (EOI) system to manage increased demand and lower allocations. As of December 2025:
 - 1293 EOIs remain uninvited, and,
 - 477 applications are in processing with JGRD, the majority of which were carried over from 2025.

s. 29(1)(a), s. 35(1)(d)

Prepared/Reviewed by: I. Carvalho/C. Kenny/J. Barnes (*with input from JGRD*)

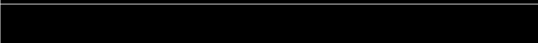
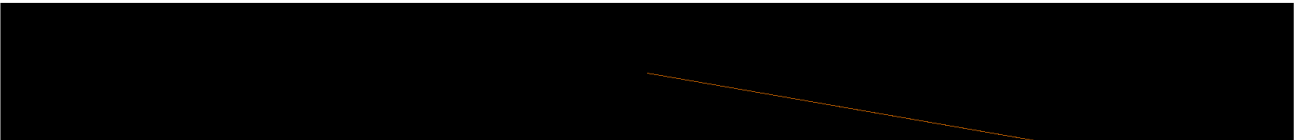
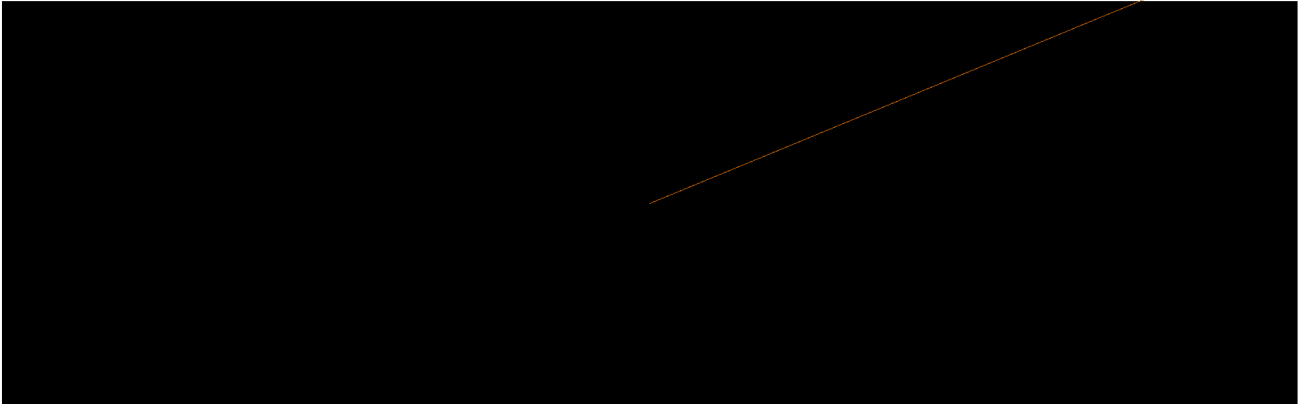
Approved by: G. Skinner, DM

January 23, 2026

Annex A Additional Federal Changes to Immigration Programs

International Student Program

- The International Student Program (ISP) is the program through which international students come to Canada to study at the secondary or post-secondary level at Designated Learning Institutions (DLI). Prospective international students may need to obtain a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL or TAL in the Territories) that confirm that there is space under the Province's allocation for each international student who applies to post-secondary institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador before they are admitted to Canada with a study permit; additionally, student visa applications now require a valid PAL. s. 34(1)(a)(i)

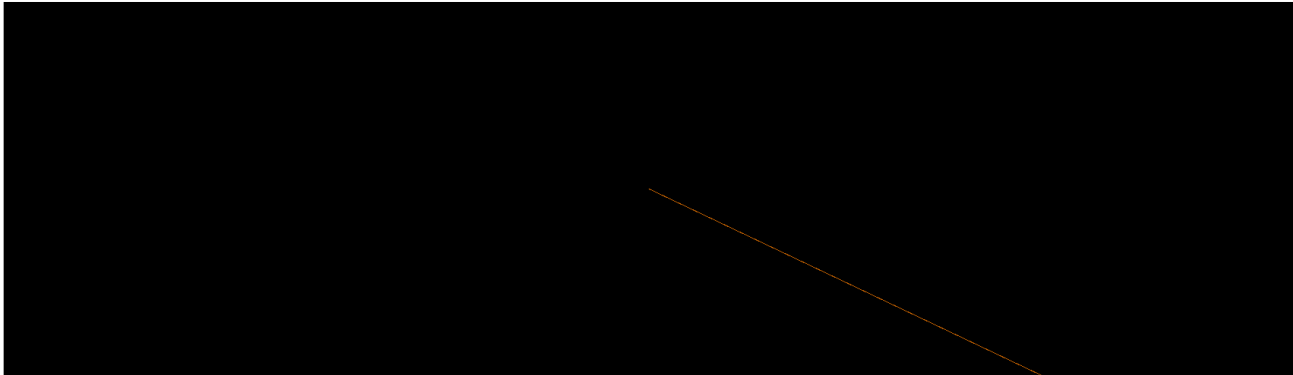


s. 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED] The NLPNP has an International Graduate (IG) stream dedicated to assisting international students apply to remain in Newfoundland and Labrador after graduation. In 2023, 288 individuals (Principal Applicants and Family Members) were nominated through the IG stream, rising to 409 in 2024 and more than 750 so far in 2025. [REDACTED]

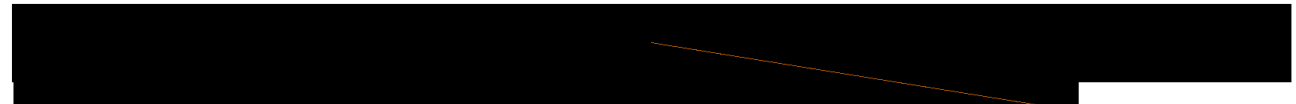
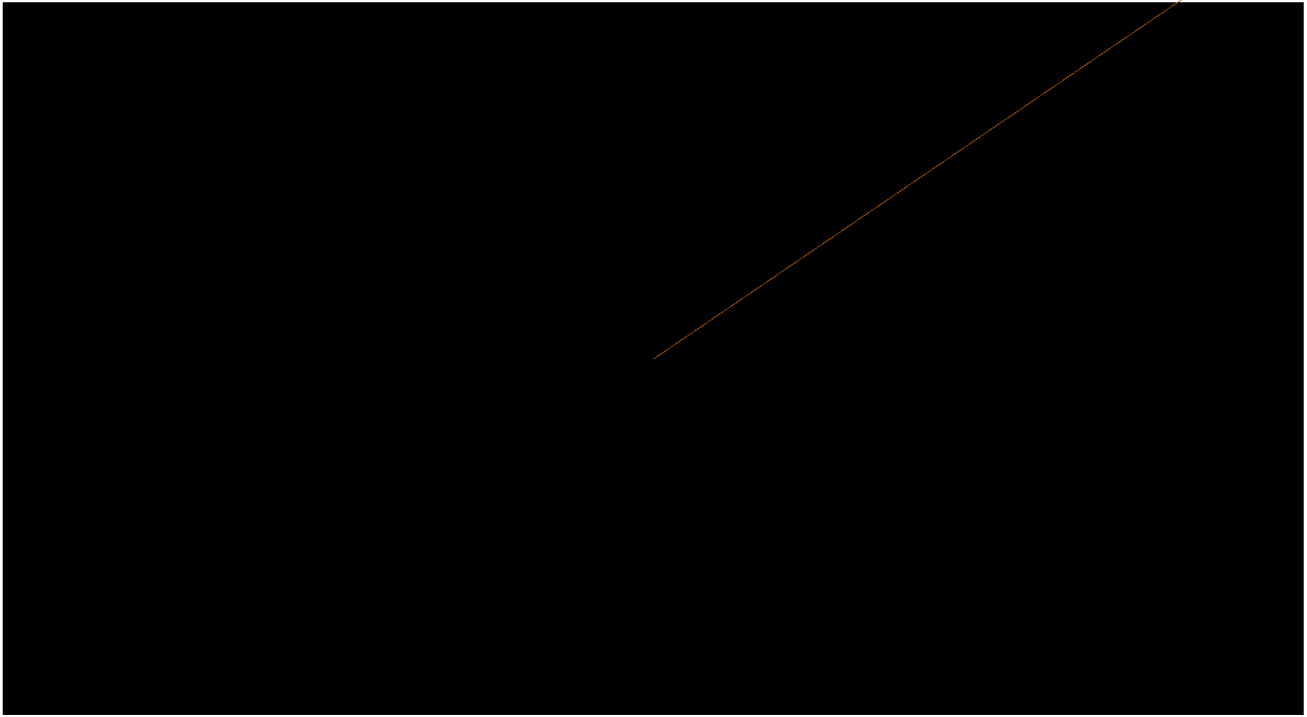


s. 29(1)(a)



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

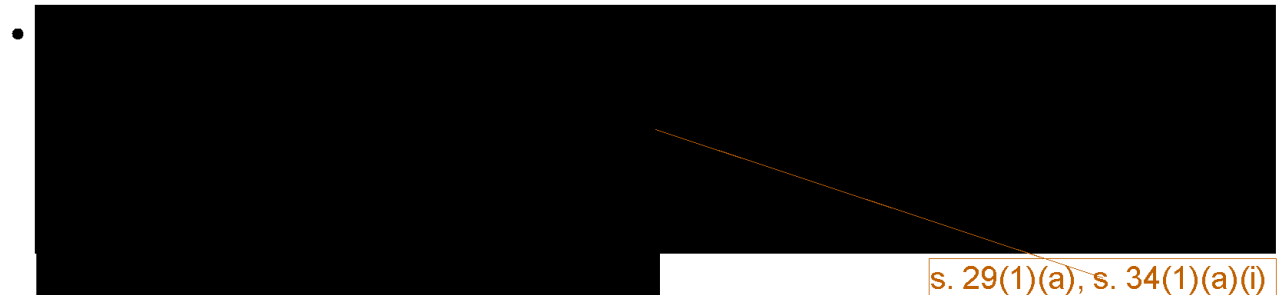
s. 29(1)(a)



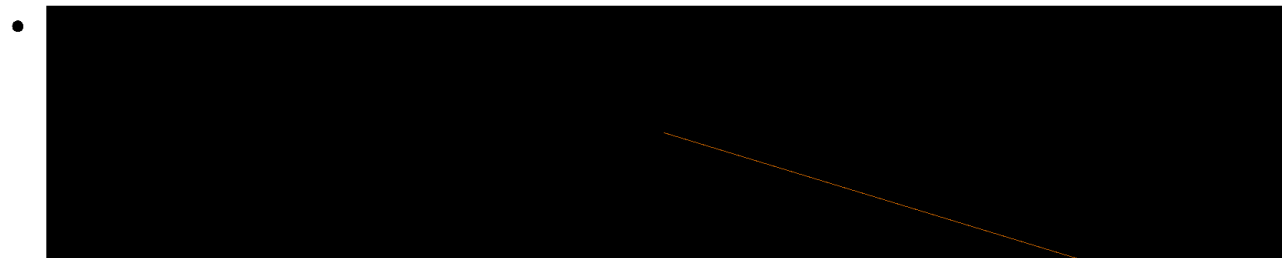
s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)

Temporary Foreign Worker Program

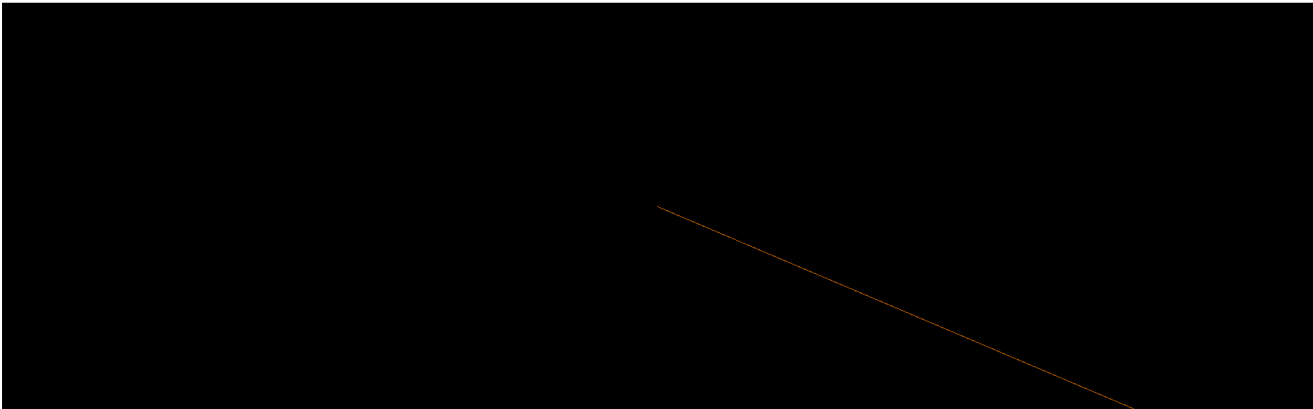
- The Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) allows Canadian employers to hire foreign nationals on a temporary basis where qualified Canadians or permanent residents are unavailable. To use the TFWP, employers need a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA).
- The International Mobility Program (IMP) also allows employers to recruit international skilled labour. The IMP does not require an LMIA, but is based on specific programs, such as the NLPNP, AIP, and PGWP (and other open work permits). The TFWP is administered by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and the IMP is administered by IRCC.



s. 29(1)(a), s. 34(1)(a)(i)



s. 29(1)(a)



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s. 29(1)(a)