



CANADA • GUYANA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Newsletter

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A GUIDE TO CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTION

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... *Continues on Page 1*



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON US TARIFFS ON CANADA

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... *Continues on Page 3*

LAUNCH OF THE DIT COMMITTEE

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... *Continues on Page 5*

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE TARIFFS

Canada and the United States have the world's most comprehensive and dynamic trading relationship which supports millions of jobs in both countries. US\$2.5 billion worth of goods and services cross the border every day.

On March 4, 2025, U.S. tariffs of 25 per cent on Canadian goods and 10 per cent on energy and potash
... *Continues on page 6*

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

... *Continues on Page 7*

MAPLE LEAF BALL 2025

... *Continues on Page 8*



A GUIDE TO CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTION

Mark Carney, former two-time central banker, was sworn in as Canada's new prime minister in March, after being elected leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

With the snap election call, Carney is sending Canadians to the polls on Monday 28 April. In the Canadian federal election, voters do not cast a ballot directly for a prime minister. Instead, the leader of the party with the majority of members of parliament (MPs) becomes PM.

Four main parties are contesting the next election - the Liberals, the Conservatives, the New Democrats (NDP) and the Bloc Quebecois. The Bloc Quebecois only contests the election in the Province of Quebec.



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The Liberal Party has been in power since 2015. At dissolution, it held 153 seats. The Conservatives were the official opposition with 120 seats. The Bloc Quebecois, had 33 seats, and the NDP had 24. The Green Party held two seats.

During the latter stages of Trudeau's premiership, opinion polls consistently showed the



Conservatives with a strong lead. But the numbers tightened after Trudeau stepped down. Following Trump's decision to introduce steep tariffs against Canada, they tightened further, suggesting a neck-and-neck race.

When Trudeau resigned earlier this year, he did so under significant pressure from his own party. It was felt that his personal unpopularity was damaging the Liberals' hopes of winning the next election. Recent polls suggest how support for the Liberals weakened throughout 2023 and 2024.

A GUIDE TO CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTION CON'TD

At the same time, support for the Conservatives soared. On 20 January 2025 - the day of Trump's inauguration - the Conservatives were polling 44.8% while the Liberals were on 21.9%. Since then, polls suggest that support for the Liberals has ticked back up. The latest averages indicate that 43.6% of Canadians back the Liberals, while 37.6% support the Conservatives. This marks the first time in three years the Liberals are leading in the polls.

How does the Canadian Federal Election work?

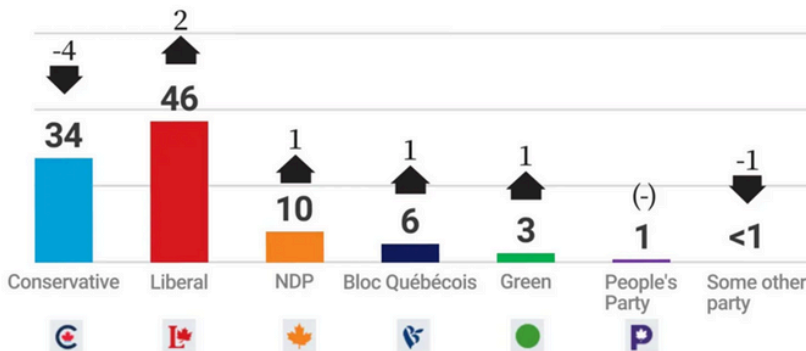
There are 343 federal ridings - also called constituencies or electoral districts - across the country. Each has a corresponding seat in the House of Commons. All the seats in the lower chamber, the House of Commons, are up for grabs during an election.



Members of the Senate, the upper chamber, are appointed and do not run for election. The candidate who gets the most votes in each riding wins that seat and become an MP. They do not need to get the majority of all the votes cast in their area. Other parties win nothing in that area. The leader of the party with the largest number of elected MPs normally forms the government. The second-placed party usually forms the official opposition.

If no party ends up with an overall majority of seats, the result is a minority government. Practically, it means the party with the most seats will not be able to pass legislation.

Liberal double-digit lead on Tories



Source: IPSOS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON US TARIFFS ON CANADA

United States administration announced a series of tariffs that will fundamentally change the international trading system. While some important elements of the Canada U.S. trade relationship have been preserved, new tariffs on automobiles now in effect. These are on top of the previously announced tariffs, including those on steel and aluminium, which remain in place.

The U.S. tariffs will do harm to American workers and businesses, but Canada will also be impacted, with every Canadian feeling the effects. The Government of Canada's position has always been clear: we will fight these tariffs, protect our workers, and build the strongest economy in the G7.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, announced new countermeasures to protect Canadian workers and businesses and defend Canada's economy.

These countermeasures include:

- Twenty-five per cent tariffs on non-CUSMA (Canada-U.S.-Mexico trade agreement) compliant fully assembled vehicles imported into Canada from the United States.
- Twenty-five per cent tariffs on non-Canadian and non-Mexican content of CUSMA compliant fully assembled vehicles imported into Canada from the United States.
- Canada's intention to develop a framework for auto producers that incentivizes production and investment in Canada.

The Government of Canada has indicated that every single dollar raised from these tariffs will go directly to support our auto workers. These measures build on the Government of Canada's previously announced supports to Canadian workers and business, including:

- Temporarily waiving the one-week employment insurance (EI) waiting period.
- Suspending rules around separation for a six-month period, so workers don't have to exhaust severance pay before collecting EI.
- Making it easier to access EI by increasing regional unemployment rate percentages.
- Deferring corporate income tax payments and GST/HST remittances from April 2 to June 30, 2025, providing up to \$40 billion in liquidity to businesses.
- Deploying a new financing facility for businesses.
- Providing more funding to Canada's regional development agencies, so they can better support businesses.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON US TARIFFS ON CANADA CONT'D

In addition, the Ontario government is providing approximately \$11 billion in relief and support for workers and businesses as it protects the province's economy from economic uncertainty and the impact of U.S. tariffs, including:

- Deferring select provincially administered taxes for six months from April 1, 2025, to October 1, 2025, giving businesses and job creators approximately \$9 billion worth of cash flow they need to keep workers employed and weather the economic turmoil.
- Through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), issuing a further \$2 billion rebate for safe employers to support businesses and help keep workers on the job, in addition to the previous \$2 billion rebate distributed in March.

LAUNCH OF THE CGCC DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The CGCC is excited to introduce the Digital Innovation & Technology Committee (DITC).

Headed by Suraj Mattai and supported by members Fareed Amin, Dr. Surendra Persaud, Radharani Rajaram, Aldercy Peters, and Rita Sookrit, the DITC is set to drive the CGCC's digital transformation agenda in 2025 and beyond.

The Committee's mission is to position the Chamber of Commerce as a digitally forward, globally connected organization that leverages technology to enhance member value, streamline operations, and increase international visibility.

More than just digitizing systems, the DITC envisions a Chamber where digital workflows enable smarter collaboration, where data informs strategic decisions, and where digital platforms elevate the Chamber's presence across borders. From website redesign and marketing innovation to AI integration and digital capacity-building, the Committee is focused on helping members thrive in a rapidly evolving tech landscape.

In 2025, artificial intelligence is not just a trend—it's a transformative force. Business leaders must adapt to lead in an environment where agility and digital readiness are essential. Five key trends driving the Committee's work include:

- The AI advantage – leading in a forever changed world of work
- Laying the groundwork for AI transformation
- Aligning talent strategy with technological innovation
- Orchestrating synergy between human and digital work forces
- Elevating performance through the human side of digital change

As part of its first steps, the CGCC has committed to launching a public awareness campaign for the DITC, strengthening the Chamber's visibility at regional and international tech events, and building partnerships across platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The DITC is ready to help lead this digital shift – because transformation isn't optional. It's essential.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE TARIFFS

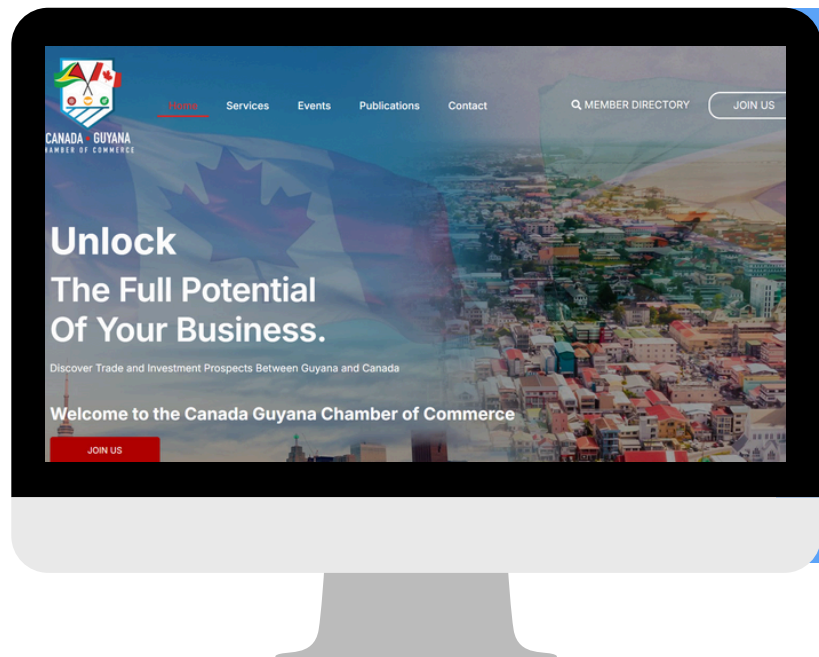
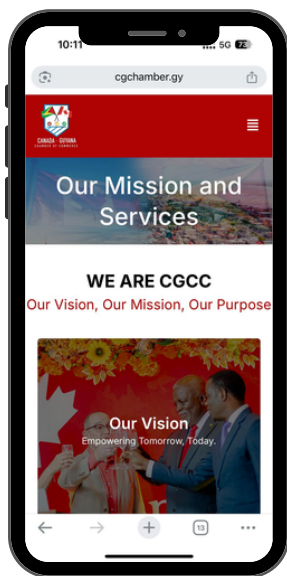
- Canada and the United States have the world's most comprehensive and dynamic trading relationship which supports millions of jobs in both countries. US\$2.5 billion worth of goods and services cross the border every day.
- On March 4, 2025, U.S. tariffs of 25 per cent on Canadian goods and 10 per cent on energy and potash exports from Canada to the U.S. came into effect. On March 12, 2025, the U.S. imposed tariffs of 25 per cent on Canadian steel and aluminium products.
- On April 3, U.S. tariffs of 25 per cent on Canadian automobiles came into effect, targeting the auto industry and the more than 500,000 Canadians this industry supports across the country.
 - The U.S. also intends to apply 25 per cent tariffs on certain automobile parts before May 3. Under the U.S. tariffs, certain exclusions linked to U.S. content may be available, specifically, the application of the 25 per cent tariff only to the value of the non-U.S. content in automobiles and auto parts that qualify for preferential tariff treatment under CUSMA.
- Canada has responded to the U.S. imposition of tariffs on Canadian goods by introducing a suite of countermeasures designed to compel the U.S. to remove the tariffs as soon as possible. These countermeasures include:
 - Imposing tariffs of 25 per cent on a valued \$30 billion in goods imported from the U.S., effective March 4, 2025.
 - Launching a public comment period on potential counter tariffs on additional imports from the U.S.
 - Imposing, as of March 13, 2025, 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on a list of steel products worth \$12.6 billion and aluminium products worth \$3 billion, as well as additional imported U.S. goods worth \$14.2 billion, for a total of \$29.8 billion to match U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium dollar-for-dollar.



CGCC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the official launch of its newly designed website.

This digital enhancement represents a significant step in the Chamber's ongoing commitment to providing greater value to its members and fostering stronger commercial ties between Canada and Guyana.



The new platform features a:

- modern interface,
- user-friendly navigation, and
- improved access to essential information,
 - including membership services,
 - business resources,
 - upcoming events, and
 - trade and investment opportunities.

The redesigned website aims to serve as a central hub for engagement, facilitating meaningful connections among stakeholders and supporting the Chamber's mission to promote bilateral economic growth.

We encourage all members, partners, and interested parties to visit the website at <https://cgchamber.gy/> and explore its features. The Chamber will continue to update the site with relevant news, announcements, and initiatives in support of its mandate.

The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce remains committed to innovation, connectivity, and service excellence, and this new website is a reflection of that vision.

MAPLE LEAF BALL 2025

*Save
the
Date*



The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the Annual Maple Leaf Ball will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

As one of the Chamber's most prestigious events, the Maple Leaf Ball brings together leaders from the business community, government, and civil society to celebrate the enduring partnership between Canada and Guyana.

The evening will feature distinguished guests, fine dining, cultural entertainment, and opportunities for meaningful networking.

Members and stakeholders are kindly asked to mark their calendars for this signature black-tie event, which promises to be both memorable and inspiring.

Additional details regarding venue, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket reservations will be shared soon.

We look forward to your presence as we celebrate excellence, collaboration, and the vibrant ties between our two nations.

NEW MEMBERS FEATURE

ICON Guyana (Ibis Construction Equipment Sales & Rentals Inc.) is a leading provider of industrial and construction equipment in Guyana. Established in 2019 as a joint venture between FT Farfan (Trinidad & Tobago) and Farfan & Mendes (Guyana), ICON serves key sectors including construction, oil and gas, and agriculture.

Located at La Bonne Intention, ECD, ICON offers top-tier brands like JCB, Lincoln Electric, STIHL, and KARCHER, along with a wide range of tools and heavy equipment. With a strong focus on quality and service, ICON supports Guyana's growing infrastructure and development needs.

For more information, or to build a partnership contact Sultan Kassim at +592 620 1984.



Energy Economics Solar is a British Columbia-based solar design and installation firm dedicated to delivering high-performance, custom solar solutions across residential, commercial, and utility-scale projects. As a Technical Safety BC-certified contractor, the company specializes in grid-tied, hybrid, microgrid, and off-grid systems, offering clients access to leading-edge technology and financing options.



With a commitment to energy resilience and sustainability, Energy Economics Solar supports a wide range of clients—from homeowners to First Nations communities—by integrating solar power with economic development and environmental stewardship.

For more information, or to build a partnership contact Josh Persaud at +1 (250) 550-8805.

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