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Turning our new reality to mutual advantage

The tariff threat that continues to hang over Canada threatens the most successful trading relationship the world has ever seen.

We are heading into an era of renewed American protectionism. Old assumptions have been turned on their head. Recent actions and rhetoric call into question the credibility of a pillar of Canada's economic strategy since 1988 – continental free trade.

Trust between trading partners and long-time neighbours has been wounded. As Canada stands at a critical juncture in its trade relationship with the U.S., we must thoughtfully assess the implications of a new reality.

In the near term, if required, Canada's response to U.S. tariffs is focused on forceful, pragmatic, targeted retaliatory counter-tariffs that aim to create domestic pressure in the U.S. – and on measures to shock-protect our economy and jobs to the extent possible.

Even if successful in avoiding significant tariffs from the U.S., we will need to collectively reflect on what key vulnerabilities we must address in the face of a less certain U.S. partner.



ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

The 30-day tariff pause provided an opportunity to work with the Americans at a diplomatic level to shine a light on a better way forward that can benefit both our countries.

I am writing this article from a Washington hotel room in early February. And while, it is possible this article may be a bit out of date by the time this update is delivered, I did think it important to speak to Canada-U.S. issues given their importance.

By the time you read this, I remain hopeful that our diplomatic efforts – which extend beyond the Trump administration to the U.S. Congress, American business and labour unions – will have been effective in moving us onto a more constructive path.

At some point, the President, who campaigned on lowering prices and inflation, will likely face domestic political pressure. Tariffs will make everyday life more expensive for Americans.

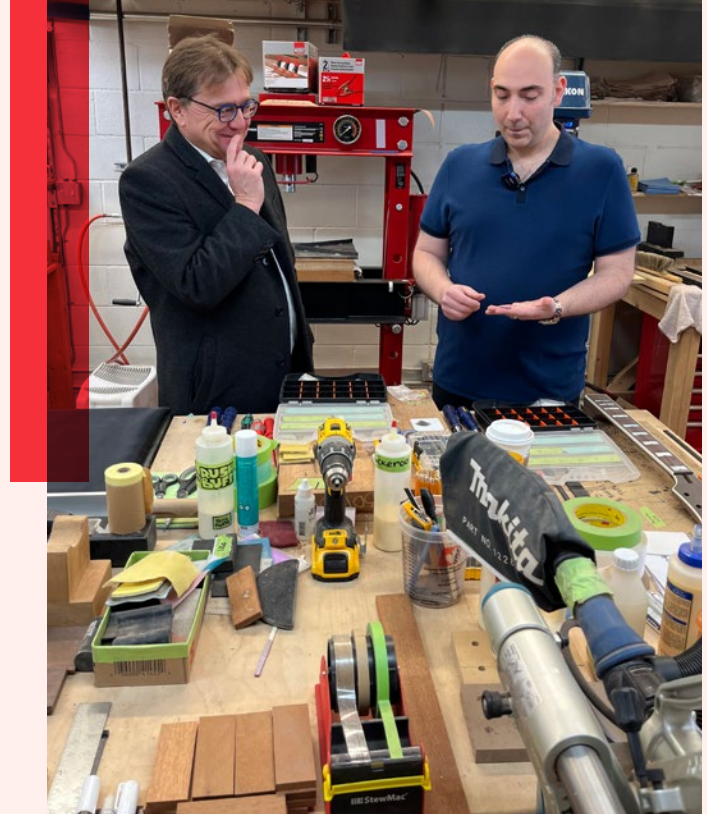
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WIN/WIN

However, rather than continuing down a path of lose/lose, as Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, I have been working in Washington to promote a concept that can be a win/win for both countries – by building upon the enormous benefits created from the economic flows that already exist – through the development of a U.S./Canada Energy and Minerals Alliance.

The Alliance would comprise several discrete projects that would enhance national security and keep energy prices low. Specific project examples would include:

- In the area of critical minerals for energy, defence and aerospace applications, **jointly investing in a project here in BC to enhance germanium supply** to displace germanium the U.S. has been purchasing from China. In the broader area of critical minerals, there are similar projects that could reduce exposure to China.
- **Working jointly to expand Canadian production and sale of uranium and potash to the U.S.** – enabling reduced American dependence on Russia.
- **Increasing the flow of Canadian crude oil from Alberta** by working together on enhancing the current capacity of the Enbridge Mainline.



Supporting Canada: Touring local manufacturing site of a Canadian business, Prestige Guitars

The U.S. and Canada collectively have the ingredients necessary to build a booming and secure partnership to further the North American economy and its security.

Both our countries stand to gain so much through a shift to a more productive conversation rather than a tariff battle.



THE BIGGER PICTURE – an impacts ‘report card’

2025 has certainly come in with a bang. Many changes will influence this government and the direction Canada takes going forward.

President Donald Trump has imposed significant stress on Canada – the United States’ closest friend and ally.

Prime Minister Trudeau has stepped down from his leadership role – and a new leader for the Liberal Party is in place to step up as Prime Minister.

I am intimately involved in the ongoing work vis a vis the United States – it is a serious focus as we develop a relationship with the new U.S. administration.

But here, I want to provide a broad-ranging look at what I have helped to move forward in the province of BC, and what this government has achieved in the national and international spheres over the course of the past 9 years.



OPPORTUNITIES

In 2014, I left the private sector where I worked as a clean tech executive to run as the Member of Parliament for North Vancouver. I was motivated to make a difference generally, but perhaps mostly in three areas: biodiversity, climate change and economic growth.

Fortunately for me, the opportunity and the privilege to serve – as Parliamentary Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, then as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and now, as Minister of Energy and Natural Resources – has provided gateways for impact I might not otherwise have had.

Preservation of ecosystems and the pursuit/creation of sustainable economic opportunities lie at the core of why I entered politics.

Here are some provincial-level achievements in which I believe I’ve had significant impact:

Energy and Natural Resources

- ✓ Secured the surrender of all (227) offshore oil and gas development licenses on the Pacific coast.
- ✓ \$867M through our Softwood Lumber Action Plan to support workers and communities, diversify our markets, help producers access services, and keep the sector on the cutting edge of the bioeconomy.
- ✓ \$368.4M over three years for a wide range of forestry initiatives including strengthening Indigenous leadership in the forest sector, forestry research exploring low-carbon building projects, export of sustainably sourced Canadian forest products, expanded use of biofuels and utilization of stranded wood fibre and wood waste.

Fisheries

- ✓ Reopening the Kitsilano Coast Guard Base
- ✓ Developing Canada’s Whales Initiative – a \$167M program to protect and restore threatened whale species including the Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- ✓ Leading the creation of the BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund – including a federal investment of \$100M.
- ✓ Ending open net salmon aquaculture in BC.
- ✓ Creating eight new marine refuges to protect glass sponge reefs in Howe Sound.

Environment

- ✓ \$50M to establish an Old Growth Fund for the protection of old growth forests – later enshrined as part of a \$1B BC Nature Agreement (including Provincial contributions).
- ✓ Developed an historic conservation agreement with BC and the Sauteaux and West Moberly First Nations to protect and conserve Southern Mountain caribou. These herds are among the few in the country whose populations are now growing.
- ✓ \$212M in federal funding for the Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$15.3M in funding to support the replacement of underground wastewater and water infrastructure in Victoria.

On the national and international stage, this government has accomplished substantial progress in many areas of concern. Here is a sampling of progress we’ve made:

Protecting biodiversity

- ✓ **As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, developed and signed the conservation agreement with the Saulteaux and West Moberly First Nations and the province to protect and conserve Southern Mountain caribou**, whose herd populations are now actually growing.
- ✓ **As Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, worked to implement the Oceans Protection Plan**, protecting 25% of our oceans by 2025 and 30% by 2030. We made major progress on marine protected spaces – increasing from 1% in 2015 to almost 14% by 2019.
- ✓ **Amended the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to provide for the Right to a Healthy Environment.**

Reducing Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions

- ✓ **Developed and released Canada’s strengthened climate plan** – Healthy Environment & Healthy Economy – the first plan in Canadian history to show in detail how to not only achieve our climate targets but to significantly exceed them.
- ✓ **Developed, introduced and passed the Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act** – requiring all future federal governments to have transparent and effective climate plans and review advice from an independent advisory body.
- ✓ **Joined the Global Methane Pledge to reduce methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030**; developed Canada’s Clean Fuel Regulations and implemented world-leading methane regulations.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

- ✓ **Participated in developing Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy.**
- ✓ **Developed the Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative**, with \$285M to invest in new programs and activities to reduce wildland fire risk in Canadian communities through FireSmart, building and mobilizing foundational wildland fire knowledge, and establishing a national Centre of Excellence.
- ✓ **Launched the process to create the Canada Water Agency.**
- ✓ **Advanced the development of flood maps in high-risk areas.**

Positioning Canada’s economy to thrive in a post-carbon world

- ✓ **Developed and implemented a resource-enabled, low-carbon economic strategy for Canada**, encouraging tens of billions of dollars of investment announcements across the country.
- ✓ **With the Minister of Finance developed Investment Tax Credits** as a key tool to catalyze investment, jobs and prosperity as we move into a lower-carbon world.
- ✓ **Developed and published the Roadmap for the Decarbonization of Canada’s Oil and Gas Sector**, a framework to decarbonize, diversify and enhance competitiveness in the oil and gas sector.
- ✓ **Established the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program.**
- ✓ **Introduced and passed the federal Sustainable Jobs Bill** and developed and published Canada’s interim Sustainable Jobs Plan (2023-2025) – concrete federal actions to advance economic prosperity and sustainable jobs in every region of the country.

Collaborating internationally on climate change and energy

- ✓ **Co-led with Germany global efforts to reach a \$100B pledge for climate finance in lead-up to COP 26** (Glasgow).
- ✓ **Launched the U.S.-Canada High Level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Ambition** with former Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry.
- ✓ **Renewed the successful Canada-France Partnership on Climate and the Environment.**
- ✓ **Announced the creation of the Canada-Germany Hydrogen Alliance** in Stephenville, NS, to deliver Canadian clean hydrogen to Germany.
- ✓ **Demonstrated leadership at the International Energy Agency**, vice-chairing the 2024 IEA Ministerial; co-chairing the Task Force on Gas and Clean Fuels Market Monitoring and Supply Security to address energy security issues in Europe in the aftermath if the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Diversifying Canada’s energy supply

- ✓ **Electricity** – Developed and published Canada’s first national electricity strategy, advancing the Government of Canada’s role in Canada’s expanded clean, reliable and affordable electricity system.
- ✓ **Helped secure over \$40B in federal investment for the electricity sector**, including over \$20B via Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credits; \$10B through Canada Infrastructure Bank; \$3B for an expanded Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathway with 106 projects approved.
- ✓ **Nuclear** – Announced a \$900M Canada Infrastructure Bank investment in the Darlington Small Modular Reactor – Canada’s first commercial scale SMR project; brought forward a \$3B export finance package supporting construction of CANDU reactors in Romania.
- ✓ **Implemented Canada’s SMR Action Plan** to safely and responsibly advance the development and deployment of SMRs, including announcing the Enabling SMRs Program to support R&D work and develop SMR supply chains.
- ✓ **Hydrogen** – Implemented the Hydrogen Strategy for Canada.
- ✓ **Critical minerals** – Developed and secured \$3.8B in Budget 2021 for Canada’s Critical Minerals Strategy. Founded the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance with Japan, U.S., Australia, Germany and the UK for global alignment on sustainable, socially responsible mining practices in the critical minerals space.

This report card isn’t an exhaustive accounting, but rather gives you a sampling of some of the major areas in which I, as your MP, have been achieving positive change on your behalf.

In reviewing the last 9-plus years, I do feel that much has indeed been accomplished. But I am also very much aware of – and energized by – the fact that there remains much to do. I assure you, I am on the job.

Setting aside differences for the greater good

Deepening polarization in Canadian politics has, in recent years, led to a toxic hyper-partisanship that has made Canada's House of Commons an increasingly hostile forum where parties play zero-sum games that threaten to undermine the collective strength and workings of Parliament.

Partisanship has always underpinned our form of government. Opposing parties play a very important role in Canadian politics by developing policy, organizing public opinion and aggregating interests. Now, more than ever, is an essential time for us to reflect upon how we can collectively and individually address a matter I fear threatens the very foundations of democratic governance.



Partisan antipathy is deeper and more extensive than at any point in recent memory, with MPs increasingly segregated along "us vs. them" partisan lines, retreating into the familiarity of their respective echo chambers. Less and less these days do MPs from opposing parties put down their partisan shields and, in spite of policy differences, get to know and respect each other as individuals - seeing in the other a fellow parliamentarian, a dedicated solution-seeker.

In fact, hyper-partisanship is increasingly encouraged, while fraternization is not. It's even been reported that some political staffers are directed to record the names of MPs speaking to colleagues from other parties in the hallways of Parliament and elsewhere.

LACK OF CIVILITY

Democracy relies on a set of unwritten rules and practices that foster cooperation, compromise, and mutual respect among political actors – hyper-partisanship often leads to the erosion of such norms.

Civility, the foundation of democratic discourse, is increasingly in short supply. Civility requires the humility to imagine that you may be mistaken, that someone with an opposing view may have a point worth considering. To be an effective Member of Parliament, it's important to build relationships with colleagues from other parties.

Perhaps the most serious threat of hyper-partisanship is the potential erosion of public trust in our democratic institutions. When political discourse is dominated by acrimony and division, citizens become disillusioned with the political process. This cynicism can lead to political disengagement, as people feel that their participation will not make a difference.

Furthermore, the constant demonization of political opponents can create an environment where misinformation and distrust flourish, further corroding the social fabric that binds a democratic society.

WHERE NOW?

I often wonder where our current course is taking us. Don't we know intuitively that to safeguard democratic governance, it is essential to promote a political culture that values dialogue, compromise, and mutual respect? Witness the degradation of democracy in the administration to the south, a direction we could be drawn to follow, if we are not vigilant.

It can start in small ways – beginning with our own personal interactions.

As political leaders, we must work to bridge partisan divides, restore faith in democratic institutions and ensure that government truly and effectively serves the public interest. Now is a time to pull together, to find common values and common goals, setting aside petty differences and sandbox disputes. Canada's very survival depends upon it.

Emma Sutherland: Building Community and Empowering Youth at RED FOX Society

Emma Sutherland has dedicated her life to empowering youth and fostering stronger, healthier communities. As the founder of Red Fox Society, Emma has harnessed the power of sport and active living to transform the lives of youth across the North Shore and Lower Mainland.

Since starting Red Fox in 2006 and expanding to North Vancouver in 2012, where the first program was held at Norgate Elementary School, she has engaged more than 150 youth weekly here on the North Shore alone. These programs emphasize leadership, fitness, and inclusion, offering young people—especially those with learning differences or on the autism spectrum—a sense of belonging, confidence, and connection.

Emma firmly believes in the transformative impact of physical activity. She has seen firsthand how exercise and outdoor activities can improve mental health, self-image, and resilience. Red Fox programs encourage youth to discover their potential while building leadership skills and a sense of pride in their abilities. For Emma, active living is not just about physical fitness—it's about helping young people feel strong in both body and mind.



Growing up in a small town in Saskatchewan, Emma learned a vital lesson: communities thrive when people look out for one another. This belief, reinforced during her time working in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in the 1980s, has guided her work with Red Fox. She understands that empowering youth is not just about creating opportunities but about building a network of support and care.

Emma's dedication and impact have been widely recognized. Recently, I nominated Emma to be one of 30 recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medal here in North Vancouver. This prestigious medal symbolizes a recognition and celebration of outstanding contributions to Canada. For Emma, it is a symbol of the countless lives she has touched through her work.



Investing in our youth is investing in our collective future. Over the years, Emma has secured vital sources of federal funding for her programs through:

- Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (2011–2014), funded by the Ministry of Heritage and the Ministry of Northern and Indigenous Affairs.
- Urban Partnerships (2015–2018), supported by the Ministry of Northern and Indigenous Affairs.
- Canada Summer Jobs (2018–2024), through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) in Vancouver and New Westminster.
- Canada Service Corps (2018–2023, 2025–2027).
- Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (2020–2024), supported by ESDC.

Through her passion, perseverance, and collaborative spirit, Emma has become a cornerstone of youth empowerment in North Vancouver and beyond. Her story is a testament to the power of community, the importance of active living, and the difference one person can make when driven by compassion and a desire to help others.

Honouring community service



The King Charles III Coronation Medal is a distinguished national honor awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. This tradition dates back over a century, with coronation medals issued to mark the ascension of new monarchs and recognize exceptional service.

In North Vancouver, the nomination process for this prestigious medal was a collaborative effort between my office and members of our community, ensuring that those who have made a meaningful impact were considered.



On February 28th, I was humbled to award this honour to 30 remarkable individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service have strengthened our community. **Congratulations to all of you, and thank you on behalf of the Government of Canada.**

Troy Abromaitis – Advocate for Indigenous communities; support for Sixties Scoop survivors; work in Lytton after the fires.

Maryam Antikchi – Contributions as a tech entrepreneur; dedication to clean technology.

Carl Archie – Advocate/negotiator in the Columbia River Treaty, leading to the return of land to his First Nation.

Farhad Banizaman Lari – Leadership in emergency preparedness and response and policy development.

Don Bell – Long service in public office as a local and federal politician.

Sgt. (rt'd) Montgomery Black – Long service in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF); community service.

Gerry Brewer – North Shore Search and Rescue (SAR) co-founder.

Dave Brewer – North Shore Search and Rescue (SAR) co-founder.

Gerri Davidson – Service to CAF; community volunteer work.

Cpt. (rt'd) George Dempsey – Service to CAF, Reserves and ongoing volunteerism.

Cpl. William Diamond – Achievement as military drummer in the Ceremonial Guard Band.

Kevin Evans – Distinguished contributions to Canadian journalism, government relations, and healthcare.

Nassreen Filsoof – Dedication to Iranian newcomers to Canada; the founder of Canadian Iranian Foundation.

MS Christian Hamann – Service to the Navy Reserves and community outreach.

Valerie Jacober – Dedicated, outstanding teacher, NVSD 44.

Valerie Jerome – Dedication as teacher, advocate, author, athlete, and community leader.

Stephen Lucas – Extensive public service in health, research, innovation, environment, climate change, and energy policy.

Mrs. Esther Yorimi Matsubuchi – Sensei and pioneer for sport in breast cancer recovery: founding paddler of Abreast in a Boat competitive dragon boat team.

Lisa Munro – Contributions to youth sports and mentorship in North Vancouver.

SL Bitu Nabili – Mentor to youth and Navy League cadets; volunteer with RCMP community policing.

Lt. Colin Parkinson – Service to maritime safety, national defense, the Navy League, and youth mentorship.

Lt. Cliff Rayo – Service to the Navy League and community contributions.

MCpl Randy Sloan – Service to CAF and work as mentor, counselor, leader, and advocate.

Lt. Carli Sussman – Long service to the Navy Reserves and volunteer work supporting Sea Cadets.

Emma Sutherland – Dedication to youth across Vancouver as the founder of Red Fox Society.

Shayegan Tabatabaeisalehi – Exceptional volunteerism as RCMP Auxiliary Constable; Navy League Cadets mentor.

Wayne Theobald – Contributions to youth sports and mentorship in North Vancouver.

Robert Douglas Watt – Outstanding achievements as a Canadian Herald.

Richard Walton – Long service in public office and local politics.

Joseph Yankanna – Leadership supporting youth and young athletes in North Vancouver.

[CLICK HERE to view the full biographies of our honourees](#)

Here to serve the community through thick and thin.
Call us with your questions and concerns.



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