

GTA Chronicle

Empower, Embrace, Engage

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Election Special Jan. 31, 2025

Trudeau Warns of Economic Hardship as Canada Prepares Response to Trump's Tariff Threat

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has issued a stark warning to Canadians, stating that the country could face difficult economic times if U.S. President Donald Trump follows through on his plan to impose 25% import tariffs as early as tomorrow.

"I won't sugarcoat it. Our nation could be facing difficult times in the coming days and weeks," Trudeau said Friday, speaking ahead of a Canada-U.S. relations council meeting in Toronto.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the exact details of Trump's tariff plan, Trudeau reaffirmed that Canada is ready with a strong but measured response.

The federal government has a three-round countermeasure strategy in place, which would escalate depending on the severity of the U.S. tariffs:

Initial retaliation: Tariffs on select American-made consumer products, including Kentucky bourbon and Florida orange juice.

Expanded trade measures: A second wave of tariffs on \$37 billion worth of U.S. goods.

Full-scale response: If necessary, additional tariffs targeting \$110 billion in U.S. manufacturing and other industries.

In addition, the government is prepared to introduce a stimulus package—potentially on the scale of pandemic-era With \$3.6 billion in goods crossing the Canada-U.S. border daily, trade experts warn that tariffs would have a damaging effect on both economies. a relief measures—to support affected Canadian businesses.



For Canada: GDP could shrink by 2.6%, costing households an average of \$1,900 annually.

For the U.S.: GDP would decline by 1.6%, with American families facing a \$1,300 annual financial hit.

"It's not what we want, but if [Trump] moves forward, we will also act," Trudeau said.

Trump has justified the tariffs by citing concerns over illegal border crossings and drug trafficking, despite Canada's \$1.3 billion investment to increase border patrols, deploy canine teams, and enhance fentanyl detection measures. Trudeau reiterated that Canada has one of the most secure borders in the world, noting that less than 1% of fentanyl and illegal crossings into the U.S. originate from Canada.

Rowena Applauds \$106 Million Federal Transit Investment to Shape Brampton's Future



Brampton's continued investment in public transit is critical for shaping a competitive, livable, and sustainable city. The Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF) will enhance transit connectivity, increase housing affordability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with national climate action goals.

"As a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board Member and Chair of the Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation Committee, we have advocated for solutions like this to ensure cities can build transit systems for future generations. Public transit is the backbone of thriving cities, and this investment will be transformational for Brampton." said – Rowena Santos, Regional Councillor, FCM Board Member



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Brampton Sees 25% Drop in E-Scooter Use, Fewer Complaints in Second Year of Pilot Program

Brampton's e-scooter pilot program has seen a sharp decline in usage, with nearly 25% fewer rides in its second year. However, the drop in ridership has coincided with a reduction in complaints, as the city prepares for the final phase of the trial before determining its long-term future.

Launched in April 2023, the two-year initiative introduced 750 electric kick-style scooters to Brampton through service providers Neuron Mobility, Bird Canada, and Scooty Mobility. The program exceeded expectations in its first year, with 110,000 users taking approximately 200,000 rides, resulting in fuel savings of 6,000 litres and reducing 14 tons of carbon emissions.

Despite the strong start, the city reported a 50,000-ride decline in 2024, with total trips dropping to 150,000 in the second year. However, data also shows a significant reduction in public complaints.

In 2023, the city received 337 complaints about e-scooters, primarily concerning litter, debris, and improper parking. By 2024, that number had dropped by over 30% to 229 complaints.



To address public concerns, Brampton introduced a "hybrid parking model" last year, implementing designated parking stalls in high-traffic areas while maintaining free-floating parking in less congested zones.

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Mark Carney Proposes Scrapping Consumer Carbon Tax, Shifting to Green Incentives

Liberal leadership candidate Mark Carney is set to announce a major shift in climate policy on Friday, proposing the elimination of the consumer carbon price while maintaining industrial carbon pricing. The former Bank of Canada governor and UN climate envoy plans to replace the controversial consumer carbon tax with incentives aimed at encouraging greener choices, such as energy-efficient appliances, electric vehicles, and home insulation upgrades.

"The consumer carbon tax isn't working — it's become too divisive," Carney said in a statement ahead of the announcement. "That's why I'll cancel it and replace it with incentives to reward people for greener choices."

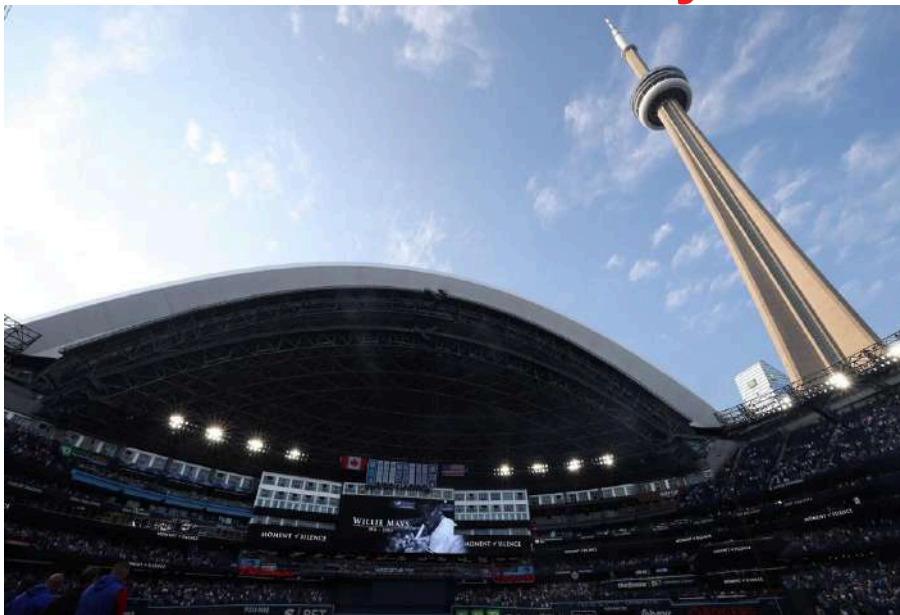
Carney's plan would also require major polluters, including oil and gas companies, to contribute to funding these incentives while continuing to pay for their emissions. The announcement, scheduled for Friday morning in Halifax, will be attended by former housing minister Sean Fraser and Atlantic caucus chair Kody Blois.

Carney's proposal signals a potential end to one of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's flagship climate policies. Introduced in 2019, the carbon pricing system currently charges \$80 per tonne of emissions and consists of two branches: one for industrial polluters and another for consumers.



While the government offsets these costs through quarterly rebates, the policy has faced persistent criticism and declining public support. Carney's plan reflects a broader shift in the Liberal Party's approach to climate policy, moving away from a divisive tax on consumers and toward incentives that encourage sustainable choices. By targeting major polluters to fund these incentives, Carney aims to balance environmental goals with economic fairness.

Two Decades Later: Do Torontonians Still Call It the SkyDome or Rogers Centre?



It's been 20 years since Toronto's iconic SkyDome was renamed the Rogers Centre, yet the debate over what to call the stadium persists. For many Torontonians, the name "SkyDome" still holds a nostalgic place in their hearts, even as the venue officially bears the name of its corporate owner, Rogers Communications Inc.

The SkyDome, which opened on June 3, 1989, was a marvel of modern engineering as the world's first stadium with a fully retractable roof. Its name was chosen through a public competition that drew over 150,000 entries, with around 2,000 participants suggesting the winning name: SkyDome.

However, on February 2, 2005, the stadium was renamed the Rogers Centre after Rogers Communications purchased it for \$25 million in 2004. Interestingly, the Rogers Centre name has now been in use longer than the SkyDome moniker was.

The renaming was a direct result of Rogers' acquisition of the stadium, which also serves as the home of the Toronto Blue Jays, the Major League Baseball team owned by the telecom giant. Since then, the Rogers Centre has undergone significant transformations, including a nearly \$400-million renovation that began in 2022 to modernize the venue and give it a more intimate, ballpark-style feel.

Despite these updates, the stadium continues to host a variety of large-scale events, from sports games to concerts. Notably, it was the site of six sold-out Taylor Swift performances in November 2024, showcasing its versatility and enduring appeal. Located at the foot of the CN Tower, the Rogers Centre remains a cornerstone of Toronto's downtown skyline. Its ongoing renovations aim to enhance the fan experience while preserving its legacy as a multipurpose venue.

As the stadium continues to evolve, so too does the conversation around its name. Whether you call it the SkyDome or the Rogers Centre, one thing is certain: this iconic venue remains a vital part of Toronto's identity.



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Doug Ford Vows to Safeguard Auto Jobs Amid Election Campaign

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford pledged to protect the province's auto sector during a campaign stop in London on Thursday, emphasizing his government's efforts to revitalize manufacturing.

Speaking at Starlim North America Corporation on Tartan Drive, Ford highlighted his party's commitment to the industry, stating, "After years of economic decline under the Liberals, our PC team has fought hard to rebuild Ontario's manufacturing sector and bring back good jobs. We've secured \$45 billion in new investments, making Ontario home to the country's first electric vehicle and battery plants."

Ford is among several party leaders hitting the campaign trail ahead of a rare winter election set for late February. He officially launched his re-election bid in Windsor on Wednesday.

The snap election was called earlier this week, with Ford citing the need for a fresh mandate to address potential challenges posed by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, including proposed tariffs. He has pledged to allocate billions of dollars to counteract economic threats.



Meanwhile, other party leaders are also mobilizing voter support. Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner is campaigning north of the Greater Toronto Area today, while NDP Leader Marit Stiles is kicking off her campaign bus tour in Toronto before heading to Kitchener.

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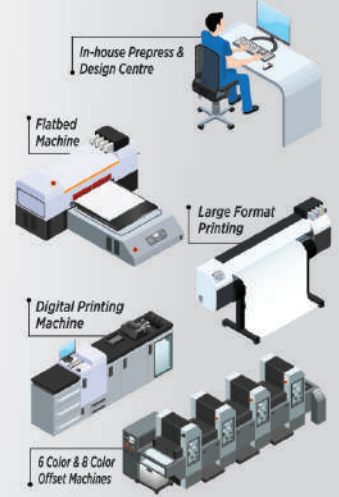
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