



A CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU AT THE WILSON CENTER

On November 17th, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the Wilson Center to discuss common challenges and opportunities for improving U.S.-Canada relations and moving towards a post-pandemic future: building more resilient economies, combating climate change, and countering China's global influence.

Building Resilient Economies

Throughout the fight to end COVID-19, the U.S. and Canada have fostered partnerships on research, health-care, and the global distribution of vaccines. The North American Leaders Summit in November of 2021 emphasized the benefits of close cooperation between Canada, Mexico, and the United States, particularly in addressing economic concerns. With nearly 2 million dollars of goods and services crossing U.S. land borders every minute, U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico is greater than with the EU and UK combined, and almost doubles annual trade with China.

Securing Critical Minerals Supply Chains

Canada and the United States are exploring innovative ways to reinforce bilateral supply chains. Prime Minister Trudeau pitched Canada as an ideal trading partner to feed growing U.S. demand for critical minerals, arguing that the "U.S. [sic] could do worse than rely on its closest friend." Canada has reserves of critical minerals necessary for batteries and is working to strengthen its auto industry supply chains, including an ambitious plan to make all new vehicles bought and sold in the U.S. and Canada zero-emission vehicles by 2035. The Prime Minister's comments build on the Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals (2020) and the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership (2020), both of



which committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation on critical minerals production.

Combating Climate Change

With the backdrop of severe weather in British Columbia and the conclusion of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), Prime Minister Trudeau discussed some of Canada's climate policies. The Prime Minister highlighted newly implemented emissions caps for oil and gas companies and a broad-based price on pollution, the latter of which he argued should be implemented around the world to eliminate the disadvantage to Canadian industries.

Countering China's Global Influence

Asked about dealing with China on the global stage, the Prime Minister explained that "[n]o country, not even the United States with all its economic strength and might, is able to counter all on its own, the strength and might of China." He underscored the role that international pressure played in securing the release of two Canadians who were detained by Chinese authorities in retaliation for the arrest of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, stating that "when we work together as Western democracies, we get things done."

Go Deeper!

For more insights from the Wilson Center event, "A Conversation with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," visit the [event page](#) on the Wilson Center website. For comprehensive insights on all-things Canada, take a look at the expertise of the Wilson Center's [Canada Institute](#).

