

LOG IN
[Home](#)
[Latest news](#)
[EU-US relations](#)
[German election](#)
[War in Ukraine](#)
[Munich Security Conference](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[Poll of Polls](#)
[Policy news](#)
[Events](#)
 NEWS
 TRADE UK

Justin Trudeau wants to revive UK-Canada trade talks in shadow of Trump

The offer comes as Ottawa remains in the White House's crosshairs.

SHARE

[Free article usually reserved for subscribers](#)



Canada's government is required to hold a general election this year before the end of October. | Dave Chan/AFP via Getty Images

EXCLUSIVE

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 7:10 AM CET

BY [GRAHAM LANKTREE](#)

LONDON — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is angling to revive long-shelved trade talks with the United Kingdom, as Ottawa tries to build up alliances in the shadow of Donald Trump's trade war.

The U.S. president pulled back from imposing punishing tariffs on Canadian goods on Monday, with Trudeau securing a one-month [stay of execution](#) for Canadian imports by striking a deal with Trump to further crack down on illegal migration and drug trafficking at the U.S.-Canada border.

But as the U.S. tariff threat continues to loom, "we now have both a great opportunity and a great reason to work really hard at trade diversification," Canadian High Commissioner to the U.K., Ralph Goodale told POLITICO in an interview.

Advertisement

He called on the U.K. to get back to the negotiating table after London walked away from bilateral trade talks last January. Negotiations to replace a post-Brexit U.K.-Canada rollover deal [collapsed after a long-running battle](#) by Canadian farmers to get hormone-treated beef into Britain. The fight led to British [cheese farmers losing their preferred access](#) to the Canadian market and some U.K. carmakers [facing extra tariffs](#) at Canada's border. "It would be helpful to take another go at that and see what we can accomplish in the shortest possible time," Goodale said. "If we can add on to it, so much the better," he said, with priority areas being science and tech and innovation, quantum computing and AI.

Canadian election looms

Snags in the bilateral talks have also posed a barrier to Canada's ratification of [Britain's membership of the Indo-Pacific CPTPP trade bloc](#). But the U.K. wants to diversify trade beyond Europe — and Canada is eager to move beyond a reliance on the United States.

Advertisement

Adverti

Restarting the bilateral trade negotiations "would be one step" towards that, Goodale argued. Yet he acknowledged reviving the talks could be difficult for Keir Starmer's Labour government. "We realize we're dealing with a new government with a different set of priorities and it may take them a while to do the internal consideration that they need to do, and that's understandable," Goodale said. It's not just the U.K. government that faces hurdles to getting the talks back on track. Canada's parliament is currently prorogued as Trudeau's Liberal party holds a leadership race after he announced at the start of this year his plans to resign as the country prepares for a general election in 2025. The party, which is languishing in the polls, will choose its new leader and prime minister of Canada on March 9 with Former Canadian and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney and Trudeau's former Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland as the front runners to replace him. Canada's government is required to hold a general election this year before the end of October. "In the meantime, we do have a trade agreement in place that is pretty darn good," Goodale said.

Advertisement

Adverti

- Related Tags
- [Beef](#) [Bilateral trade](#) [CPTPP](#) [Elections](#) [Imports](#) [Markets](#) [Negotiations](#) [Tariffs](#) [Trade](#) [Trade Agreements](#)
- Related Countries
- [Canada](#) [United Kingdom](#) [United States](#)
- Related People
- [Chrystia Freeland](#) [Donald Trump](#) [Justin Trudeau](#) [Keir Starmer](#) [Kemi Badenoch](#) [Mark Carney](#)
- Related Organizations
- [Bank of England](#)

Our readers read next



Putin's disinformation networks flood social media in bid to skew German election

2 HRS AGO 4 MINS READ



German election frontrunners push for nuclear comeback

5 HRS AGO 3 MINS READ



Poland counters Trump's EU trade 'atrocities' quip: US runs 'huge' surplus in services

5 HRS AGO 3 MINS READ



COMMENTARY

Lithuania hopes to woo Trump with its anti-China stance

7 HRS AGO 6 MINS READ

More from Graham Lanktree



UK urged to probe spate of Chinese flights for forced labor

Three new routes connecting China's Xinjiang province to major U.K. airports have opened up since last summer.

JAN 31 5 MINS READ



UK's Starmer wants speedy Donald Trump trade talks

The prime minister wants talks with the new U.S. president's team to start in the weeks ahead, he told POLITICO.

JAN 17 3 MINS READ



Musk stands to get even richer off this UK government plan

The billionaire Tesla owner might be feuding with Keir Starmer's government, but he can expect a big payday thanks to one of Labour's key schemes.

JAN 17 4 MINS READ



Peter Mandelson confirmed as Britain's next ambassador to US

Keir Starmer praises incoming ambassador — a former European trade commissioner — for his "unrivalled experience," as former colleagues rate his chances in Trumpworld.

- -
 -
 -
-
-
- - [POLICY](#)
 - [Agriculture and Food](#)
 - [Central Banker](#)
 - [Competition and Industrial Policy](#)
 - [Cybersecurity and Data Protection](#)
 - [Defense](#)
 - [Energy and Climate](#)
 - [Energy and Climate UK](#)
 - [Energie et Climat France](#)
 - [Financial Services](#)
 - [Financial Services UK](#)
 - [Health Care](#)
 - [Mobility](#)
 - [Paris Influence](#)
 - [Sustainability](#)
 - [Technology](#)
 - [Technology UK](#)
 - [Trade](#)
 - [Trade UK](#)
 - [NEWSLETTERS](#)
 - [Berlin Bulletin](#)
 - [Berlin Playbook](#)
 - [Brussels Playbook](#)
 - [China Watcher](#)
 - [Dimanchissime](#)
 - [EU Election Playbook](#)
 - [EU Influence](#)
 - [Global Playbook](#)
 - [Global Policy Lab: Living Cities](#)
 - [London Influence](#)
 - [London Playbook](#)
 - [Playbook Paris](#)
 - [POLITICO Confidential](#)
 - [Sunday Crunch](#)
 - [PODCASTS](#)
 - [EU Confidential](#)
 - [Politics at Jack and Sam's](#)
 - [Power Play](#)
 - [Westminster Insider](#)
 - [Berlin Playbook — Der Podcast](#)
 - [OPINION](#)
 - [All Opinion](#)
 - [Beyond the Bubble](#)
 - [Club Med](#)
 - [Declassified](#)
 - [From Across the Pond](#)
 - [Unpacked](#)
 - [FEATURED SERIES](#)
 - [Polish Presidency of the EU](#)
 - [A global emergency: Tackling antimicrobial resistance](#)
 - [Living Cities](#)
 - [POLITICO 28](#)
 - [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)
 - [POLITICO Pro](#)
 - [Print Edition](#)
 - [Research and analysis division](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Cookie Policy](#)
- [Media Solutions](#)
- [Research and Analysis Division](#)
- [Agency IQ](#)
- [Press](#)
- [Print Edition](#)
- [Careers at POLITICO](#)
- [Ts&Cs](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Manage Privacy Settings](#)

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[YouTube](#)
[App Store](#)
[Play Store](#)