



# Federal Cabinet



## Topic I: Canada-US Relations

### A Brief History

Canada and the United States of America share one of the world's closest and strongest bilateral relationships. With the world's longest shared border (8,891 km), the two nations have immense political, economic and cultural ties. Canada and the US are important economic and military allies, but the US dominates on those fronts with a population ten times larger.

The relationship was not always friendly, dating back to the War of 1812, the US's failed attempt to invade Canada. However, since then, the two countries have remained peaceful and cooperative with close military collaboration in World War II and throughout the cold war through the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). A high volume of trade and migration exists between the two nations resulting in an overlap of popular culture and the establishment of trade deals such as the 1988 Canada-US Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Though Canada-US relations have been a global example of constant peaceful cooperation, it is important to note historical examples of disagreement. Prime Minister John Diefenbaker famously didn't get along with John F. Kennedy, refusing nuclear arms and hesitating to support the Americans during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Lester Pearson found it difficult to



support the US in the Vietnam War, openly stating his opposition in 1967. During the presidency of George W Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien refused to support the 2003 Invasion of Iraq and publicly states that US foreign policy could be the root cause of terrorism. A more recent example is the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, supported by Prime Ministers Trudeau and Harper but rejected by President Obama.

## **Current Situation**

The election of the President Donald Trump appears signal landmark changes in Canada-US relations. Much of the rhetoric heard through the campaign signaled a hostility towards historical pillars of the two nations' friendship. Trump consistently criticized NAFTA which has grown trade between Canada the US by hundreds of billions of dollars. Trump often rejected the importance of NATO, which is vital to Canadian-American defense alliances. Additionally, Trump called for a halting of Muslim immigration and the admittance of refugees, in sharp contrast to Canadian policy that has accepted over 25,000 Syrian refugees. Trump has attempted to implement this through executive orders, to which Canada has not formally responded to. The isolationist, nationalist and nativist ideology of Donald Trump differs greatly from previous administrations and certainly the Canadian approach that values multiculturalism and liberal internationalism.

To address the changing relationship, PM Trudeau shuffled positions within his cabinet for a team better equipped to deal with their southern neighbour. Most notably, Stephane Dion was removed from the Foreign Affairs



post and Chrystia Freeland was given the job. Additionally, the Prime Minister has set up a ‘war room’ of sorts to rapidly respond to a President that is regarded as ‘unpredictable’. This team of diplomats and politicians is lead by Freeland’s Chief of Staff, Brian Clow.

Though some small steps have been taken, Canada has not brought any radical change to deal with the radical change in President and the subsequent changes in the Canada-US relationship. The Cabinet must reshape Canadian policy reflective of all facets of Canada’s relations with her most important partner.

### Questions to Consider

1. How can Canada oppose the policies of Trump without jeopardizing economic, military and political relations?
2. Should criticism of Trump’s policies be made publicly by Canadian leaders or kept private? As of now, Trudeau has not been strongly critical and has kept his strong words mostly to the forum of Twitter. Do you agree with the Prime Minister’s approach?
3. What can Canada do to better prepare for a tumultuous relationship in the future? Is the ‘War Room’ a good policy and how can it be reformed to work efficiently?
4. How can Canada prevent the influence of Trump and his movement domestically within Canada?



## Sources

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## Topic II: Aboriginal Issues

### Historical Context

Aboriginal people have a long and proud history that includes rich cultural and spiritual traditions. Many of these traditions, however, were altered or even taken away upon the arrival of European settlers. The forced introduction of European culture and values to Aboriginal societies, the dispossession of Aboriginal lands, and the imposition of foreign modes of governance began a cycle of social, physical and spiritual destruction.

The most prominent example of this oppression were residential schools. Starting from the 19th century to 1996, over 150,000 Aboriginal children were seized from their parents and sent to residential schools. These institutions were part of an aggressive plan of assimilation to annihilate indigenous languages and cultures to be replaced by English and French languages, Christianity and “Canadian” values. Many children died in these schools and suffered abuse at the hands of administrators and teachers. The effects of this policy and other like this are felt today. It is believed that underlying the poverty, poor health and substance abuse often found in aboriginal communities is a loss of identity and a learned helplessness from having their values oppressed and their rights ignored.



## Current Situation

On June 28, 1985 a milestone was reached when important changes were made to Canada's Indian Act. When Parliament passed Bill C-31 it brought the Indian Act into line with the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and expanded band control over membership and community life, enabling Indian people to take an important step toward self-government in the hopes of creating a fresh start for aboriginal peoples in Canada.

However, despite considering itself at the forefront of Aboriginal rights, there are a number of significant issues that result in a clear divide between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada. Socio-economic disparities between Aboriginals and non-indigenous Canadians remain wide. In 2010, the average Canadian earned \$30,000 annually while the median income for Aboriginals less than \$20,000, and those living on reserves were even worse off surviving on just over \$12,000.

Furthermore, there is a significant lack of services available to Aboriginal communities, particularly in remote areas. Government provisions for infrastructure, health, education and other basic amenities are inadequate. There is a housing crisis, particularly on reserves: A shocking 45 percent of First Nations people live in buildings which require major repairs. Half of the water supply systems used by Aboriginal people pose medium to high health risks. The situation is dire, to the point that Aboriginals' life expectancy is up to 14 years less than other Canadians. Although living conditions for these areas have risen in recent years, they continue to lag behind the overall population.

When it comes to education over one quarter of all non-aboriginal adults hold a Bachelor's degree, this however slips to 6.5 percent among Aboriginals.



Adolescents with indigenous origins are nearly three times less likely to finish high school. The current government has attempted to address through Bill C-33: First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. However, its contents caused such disagreement that the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations resigned, leading to poor and ineffective implementation of the bill.

Most alarming, however, are the social effects of societal inequality. The statistics are staggering: Aboriginals are seven times more likely to be murdered and twice as likely to be the victim of violent crime. Substance abuse is rampant and children are eight times more likely to be taken into government care. Aboriginals constitute 23 percent and 33 percent of the inmates in prison facilities, respectively, despite making up only three percent of Canada's population. The situation is particularly bleak for Aboriginal women as over 1,200 indigenous women and girls have vanished in the last 30 years and the response of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been lacking.

Recognizing these issues the Canadian government has tried to make change, in doing so, however, significant concerns have arisen due to the violation of treaty rights. If the government aspires to change policies that impacts Aboriginal peoples, it is obliged to involve them in the decision-making process. Yet, the current leadership has ignored or limited involvement of indigenous groups. In 2012, five acts alone were altered without consultation, sparking the Idle No More movement and reinforcing the mistrust often expressed towards the government. Thus, it can be seen that in the future policy in this area will have to focus reflect the will of the people that it will affect.





## Questions to Consider

1. The federal Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is responsible and provides funding for nearly all the social programs and services provided to Inuit and First Nations peoples registered with Indian status under the Indian Act. How should this agency work towards hearing, recognizing and acting upon input from Aboriginal peoples?
2. In 1995, the federal government announced the Aboriginal Right to Self-Government Policy. This policy recognizes that First Nations and Inuit have the constitutional right to shape their own forms of government to suit their particular historical, cultural, political and economic circumstances. Should the Canadian government shift towards having more oversight over the local government, to ensure effective allocation of resources?
3. What action should parliament take to ensure that the voices and opinions of Aboriginal peoples is heard during the formation of critical social policy?
4. What programs can be enacted to provide a better future, economically, socially and otherwise, for Indigenous youth?

## Sources

1. [http://www.johnco.com/native/bill\\_c31.html](http://www.johnco.com/native/bill_c31.html)
2. <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1358798070439/1358798420982>
3. <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/05/canada-broken-relationship-wit-2014523123830144334.html>
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5. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/native-people-social-conditions/>
6. <http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/news/canada-first-nations/>



# Federal Government of Canada Special Cabinet

## Meeting Rules of Procedure

The following rules of procedure were adopted by the Ontario Model United Nations (OMUN) Secretariat in April 2017, and will be used for the Federal Government of Canada and Special Cabinet Meeting (FedCab).

### General Rules

1. Powers of the Chair – The chair has authority over the committee and may take all reasonable measures to ensure that these rules are followed and there is decorum among delegates. The chair and her/his officers will make all decisions regarding rules of procedure.
2. Quorum – 50%+1 of all registered delegates in a committee constitutes a quorum for debate. The chair shall undertake a roll call of all delegates prior to the beginning of each committee session and return from recess in order to determine if quorum exists.
3. Courtesy – The chair, delegates and staff are required to show courtesy and respect toward one another at all times during OMUN. Where possible, delegates should stand when speaking.
4. Placards – Placards will be provided by the OMUN Secretariat. Delegates must use these placards when looking to be recognized by the chair. Delegates shall not deface or otherwise destroy the placards.
5. Dress Code – All delegates must be dressed in western business attire or school uniforms.



## Discussion and Debate

6. Moderated caucus- The default position for debate is moderated caucus. During this time, the chair may select delegates at their discretion to speak.
7. Agenda – Setting the agenda will be the first order of business for the committee. To place a topic on the agenda, a delegate will need to motion. The motion requires a seconder. One speaker will be allowed to speak for the motion and one against. After hearing from both sides, the members will take a vote. A simple majority will pass the motion and the topic will be placed on the agenda.
8. Time Limits on Speeches in Moderated Caucus – The default time limit for speeches during moderated caucus is 1 minute. A member may motion to change the speaking time for speeches in moderated caucus at any time. The member must indicate how long she or he wishes the speaking time to be. A simple majority is required to pass the motion.
9. No Yields During Moderated Caucus – No yields are permitted/required during moderated caucus.
10. Points and Motions Allowed During Moderated Caucus - Only points of personal privilege, order, and parliamentary inquiry are allowed during moderated caucus.
11. Point of Personal Privilege – A delegate may motion for a point of personal privilege whenever she or he experiences personal discomfort that impairs her or his ability to participate in the proceedings. A point of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker. If accepted by the chair, the delegate should detail the circumstances of the impairment. The chair will then make every reasonable effort to accommodate that person.



12. Point of Order – A delegate may rise to a point of order to indicate an instance of improper use of the rules or procedure. The chair, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure, will decide the point of order immediately. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker.
13. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry - A member may motion for a point of parliamentary inquiry to ask the chair a question regarding the rules of procedure. A point of parliamentary inquiry may not interrupt a speaker.

### **Unmoderated Caucus**

14. Motioning for an Unmoderated Caucus – A delegate may motion for a caucus at any time. An unmoderated caucus is a timed period in which the rules of formal debate are completely suspended and delegates may walk around the room. The delegate must specify a time and purpose for the caucus. A simple majority vote is required to pass the motion.
15. Time Extension on the Unmoderated Caucus – The chair may grant additional time for a caucus at their discretion without a motion, but the additional time set cannot be greater than 5 minutes.

### **Cabinet Minutes**

16. Presentation of Cabinet Minutes – Only Cabinet minutes that address the topic at hand can be presented to the committee. Cabinet members require two sponsors and three co-sponsors to be introduced.
17. Multiple Cabinet Minutes on the Same Topic are Permitted – Delegates may introduce multiple Cabinet minutes on the same topic. The chair will number these Cabinet minutes based on order it was introduced, starting with 01.



18. Format of Cabinet Minutes – Cabinet minutes must be neatly written or typed in the format prescribed by the OMUN Secretariat and approved by the chair before they are introduced.
19. Amendments – An amendment to a Cabinet Minute must be presented in writing to the chair. The chair will make every effort to ensure copies of the amendment are available to all delegates. Friendly amendments require only the signature of the original delegates that sponsored the Cabinet minute. Unfriendly amendments must bear the signatures of two delegates and must have a simple majority to pass. Unfriendly amendments are voted upon only after closure of debate.
20. Closure of Debate – During debate on a substantive topic, a delegate may move to close debate on the issue. Two speakers for and two speakers against the motion will be permitted to speak at the chair's discretion. If there are no speakers against, the motion will automatically carry. Otherwise, a simple majority is required for this motion to pass. If Cabinet minutes/amendments have been presented, the committee will immediately move into voting procedure on those Cabinet minutes/amendments. Each Cabinet minutes must be voted on independently in the order that they were introduced.
21. Division of the Question – After closure of debate, a delegate may motion to have the clauses of Cabinet amendment voted upon separately. The delegate should indicate in their motion how they wish to divide the Cabinet Minute. A simple majority is required for this motion to pass.
22. Voting – Each delegate shall have one vote. A delegate may either vote for, against or abstain from voting on a Cabinet minute or amendment. Under no circumstances is a delegate to vote on behalf of another delegate.



23. Cabinet Minutes Require 50%+1 to pass – All Cabinet minutes require 50%+1 of the delegates to vote yes in order to pass.
24. Roll Call Votes – After closure of debate, a delegate may motion to have a roll call vote. This motion is automatically carried and only applies to voting on Cabinet minutes or amendments. In a roll call vote, the chair will call the delegates aloud in alphabetically order. Members may vote ‘Yes,’ ‘No,’ ‘Abstain’ or ‘Pass.’ A delegate who passes must vote after all members have voted. The chair will then announce the outcome of the vote.
25. Powers of Veto – should the Prime Minister or Premier vote ‘no’ on a Cabinet minute/amendment, the Cabinet minute is considered ‘vetoed’ and cannot pass. There is no appeal of a veto.
26. Cabinet Minutes Carrying Contradictory Clauses – In cases where the committee passes Cabinet minutes that carry contradictory or conflicting operative clauses, the Cabinet minute that was most recently passed will carry.

## **Adjournment**

27. Adjournment of the Committee – a member may make a motion to adjourn or end the deliberations of the committee at any time within the last 5 minutes of the schedule as written by the OMUN Secretariat. A 2/3 vote is required for the motion to pass. The chair may adjourn the committee within the last 10 minutes of the schedule, without a vote and at their discretion.



## Ontario Model United Nations (OMUN) 2017

### Federal Government of Canada Special Cabinet Meeting (FedCab)

#### Creating Cabinet Minutes

Cabinet minutes are the records that summarize discussions and decisions of federal and provincial Cabinet meetings. These documents are prepared for every meeting of Cabinet usually by the Secretary to the Cabinet. Although they are known as “minutes,” they are not verbatim transcripts of the discussion, but rather are a record of the conclusions made and instructions for the civil service to carry out.

Cabinet minutes in the OMUN simulation will be prepared by cabinet members themselves and voted upon by members of both cabinets.

The format for the Cabinet minute will be as follows:

**Meeting Title**

**Date**

On the issue of underline and bold the topic, the Cabinets of the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario,

1. Include the decisions and instructions in numerical order. There is no limit to the number of decisions or instructions that can be in the minute.



The Prime Minister and Premier will each have the power of veto with regard to voting on the Cabinet minutes.

## Sample Cabinet Minute

### Joint Cabinet Minute

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On the issue of decriminalization of marijuana, the Cabinets of the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario,

1. Agree in principle to the decriminalization of marijuana by the year 2018;
2. Direct the Federal Department of Justice to draft legislation that will remove simple possession of marijuana as a criminal offense in Criminal Code of Canada;
3. Direct the Federal Department of Justice and the Provincial Ministry of the Attorney General to lead a consultation with interested stakeholders, including the RCMP and local police forces on the proposed legislation, and to report back to both cabinets at the next special meeting to be held in Ottawa on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.