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NATIONAL

Canada's Trade Challenge



Donald Trump is not backing down on **tariffs** against Canada. He has surprised those who claimed he would change his mind at the last minute. Instead, he has carried through, targeting Canada's **exports** and raising questions about the future of one of the world's most important trade relationships.

At the centre of this standoff is CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement). CUSMA replaced the old NAFTA deal. It is important for Canada's **economy** because it allows goods to move across the border with little to no tariffs.

About three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the United States. This makes tariff-free trade important for Canadian industries like cars, steel, and farming. Losing access to tariff-free trade could hurt businesses and jobs on both sides of the

border.

Part of the CUSMA agreement is a review that will start July 2026. With tensions rising now, talks could begin much sooner. Experts believe that Trump is using new tariffs to negotiate changes to the deal that support U.S. interests. They believe this is more about getting more out of the next CUSMA deal than it is about fixing economic problems.

What can Canada do now? Government leaders say they aren't rushing. They want a good deal, not a quick fix. Prime Minister Mark Carney and his team are under pressure to protect Canada's access to the U.S. market, but they are also balancing the need not to give up too much in return.

Canada's businesses say uncertainty can put jobs and investments at risk. Some are calling on the government not

to agree to a "bad deal" just to end the dispute.

The long game for Canada is to protect tariff-free access to the U.S., stay a step ahead of the United States, and be ready to stand firm when CUSMA talks get serious over the next year or two. ★



DID YOU KNOW

NAFTA was a trade agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico that made trade easier. It started on January 1, 1994, and helped reduce barriers between the countries.

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WORD POWER

TARIFFS: Special taxes that a government puts on goods coming into the country from another country

EXPORTS: Goods that are sold and transported to another country

ECONOMY: The system of how money is made and used in a country

INTERNATIONAL

Ceasefire Reached in Thailand-Cambodia Conflict



Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to a **ceasefire** after **clashes** along their shared border forced more than 300 000 people to leave their homes. The ceasefire brings some hope, but the issues behind the fighting are deep and complicated.

The recent violence started in late May when a Cambodian soldier was killed. This increased tensions between the two countries, but the conflict goes back many years.

The main cause is a border **dispute** between Thailand and Cambodia. Both countries claim ownership of land near the ancient temple called Preah Vihear. In 1962, it was decided that the temple belongs to Cambodia, but the exact borders around the temple were never clearly defined. This unclear border has caused repeated

arguments and fighting. Both countries have sent their soldiers to protect what they believe is their land.

The border area is important not only because of the temple's cultural value but also because of strategic and economic reasons. Each side sees giving up ground as losing part of their country. This has made it hard for leaders to reach a lasting agreement.

The recent violence destroyed many homes, forcing large numbers of people to flee their towns and villages. The fighting also hurt trade and damaged relations between Thailand and Cambodia.

Both governments have said they want to keep peace and resolve future problems through talks instead of fighting. Experts warn that unless the border dispute is carefully and clearly settled,

more clashes could happen. One ceasefire might not be enough to solve all the problems.

Many people in the border region hope the ceasefire holds. They want their leaders to find real solutions and end the cycle of violence forever. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country that was never colonized by European powers.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/gadj>

Video



WORD POWER

CEASEFIRE: An agreement between two sides to stop fighting, at least for a while, so they can try to make peace

CLASHES: Violent fights or battles, usually between groups or countries that don't agree with each other

DISPUTE: A serious argument or disagreement between people or countries about something important, like land

INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

Cleanup of Polluted Mine Sites



The Carcross/Tagish First Nation is now in charge of important projects to clean up three places that have been polluted by mining operations.

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation is located in Yukon. Their traditional territory includes the area around Carcross and Tagish and **extends** to the border with British Columbia.

For many years, mining companies worked near the land where the Carcross/Tagish people live. Over time, waste from the mine sites leaked into the ground and nearby lakes. This included **heavy metals** and dangerous chemicals. This caused damage to the environment and created risks for plants, animals, and the people who use the land for hunting, fishing, and living.

The First Nation recently signed an agreement with

the federal government that lets them take charge of the cleanup process. This means the First Nation can make decisions about how to fix the land in a way that respects their culture, values, and knowledge.

Taking control of the cleanup helps the community in other ways. It gives people the chance to learn new skills and find jobs through the work needed to clean the sites. It also shows respect for the First Nation's right to care for their land. This new partnership between the federal government and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation is a step toward healing past harms and building a better future.

This cleanup work also helps repair the damage done to the land and water, making it safer for plants, animals, and people. It supports the community's connection to

their **traditional** territory and helps protect their way of life.

The fact that the Carcross/Tagish First Nation is leading these cleanup projects is a positive move for the environment and for the people. It lets the community have a strong voice in deciding how to restore their land and care for their home. ★



DID YOU KNOW

Some heavy metals, like iron and zinc, are important for our health in small amounts, but many heavy metals can be harmful if too much gets into our bodies, the soil, or water.

To view videos, go to:
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WORD POWER

EXTENDS: Covers a particular area, distance, or length of time

HEAVY METALS: A group of metals that are heavier than most other metals

TRADITIONAL: Related to the long-held customs, beliefs, or ways of life passed down in a community

ENVIRONMENT

Tsunami Warnings

A very strong earthquake hit near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, causing concern about **tsunami** waves along the Pacific Ocean.

The earthquake occurred on July 30, 2025. It measured 7.8 in **magnitude**, making it one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded. It was powerful enough to shake the ground and sea floor **dramatically**.

When strong earthquakes happen under the ocean, they can create tsunamis. A tsunami is a series of very large waves made when the sea floor suddenly moves. This can happen during earthquakes, underwater landslides, or volcanic eruptions. Tsunamis travel fast across the ocean and grow taller and more dangerous when they reach shallow shores. These waves can flood towns and cities near the coast.

After the earthquake in Russia, Japan quickly warned about possible tsunamis. They set up alerts to tell people to move to higher ground just in case. The warnings were lifted after it became clear no harmful waves would reach their coast.

Waves from the earthquake kept moving across the Pacific Ocean and eventually reached the west coast of the United States. These waves were smaller and less dangerous than first feared.

The main concern with tsunamis is how fast and powerful they can be. When an earthquake happens underwater, there is very little time to warn people. This is why many countries around the Pacific Ocean have early warning systems. These systems detect earthquakes and changes in sea levels quickly so people can be alerted and evacuate if



needed.

This recent earthquake showed how important it is for countries to work together and stay prepared for natural disasters like tsunamis. The event reminds everyone to stay alert and listen to warnings. Tsunamis can happen suddenly and cause great harm, so being ready can save lives and reduce damage. ★



DID YOU KNOW

The most destructive tsunami ever recorded happened in 2004 after a huge earthquake in the Indian Ocean.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/gadj>

Video



WORD POWER

TSUNAMI: A series of very large ocean waves caused by underwater earthquakes or other events that push the water suddenly

MAGNITUDE: A measure of an earthquake's size or strength based on the energy it releases

DRAMATICALLY: Very suddenly and to a very great degree

FEATURE

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



The National Day for Truth and **Reconciliation** is observed every year on September 30. It is a day meant to honour the Indigenous children who were taken to residential schools, their families, and their communities.

The purpose of this day is to remember the tragic history and the lasting effects of the Canadian Indian residential school system. Residential schools were designed to force Indigenous children to abandon their culture and language.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation became an official holiday in 2021. Before that, September 30 was known as Orange Shirt Day. The orange shirt symbolizes the story of Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor whose new orange shirt was taken away on her first day of school. The shirt has

become a symbol of the forced **assimilation** many Indigenous children experienced.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was needed because Indigenous Peoples wanted a specific day to acknowledge these past wrongs and work towards healing and understanding. It is also a call for Canadians to recognize the ongoing **discrimination** and challenges Indigenous communities face.

This day is an important chance for people across Canada to participate in events, wear orange shirts, and take time to reflect on how the country can better support Indigenous rights and cultures. Its meaning reaches far beyond a day off work. It invites every Canadian to engage with the truth of history and to be part of the journey toward fairness and respect.

It serves as a reminder that truth and healing are ongoing processes. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a step forward in recognizing the past and working toward a better future for Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians. ★



DID YOU KNOW

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada made 94 Calls to Action to help repair the harms caused by residential schools.

To view videos, go to:
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/gadj>

Video



WORD POWER

RECONCILIATION: The process of repairing relationships and building understanding and respect between groups, especially after past harm or conflict

ASSIMILATION: When a group is forced to give up their culture, language, or traditions to become like another group

DISCRIMINATION: The practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others

NATIONAL

Canada’s Trade Challenge

1. What is at the centre of this standoff? Why is it important?

2. Why is tariff-free trade important for Canada?

3. What do experts believe about the new tariffs?

4. Why aren’t Canada’s government leaders rushing?

5. What are Canadian businesses saying?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What risks could there be if Canada rushes into a deal just to end the trade dispute quickly?

INTERNATIONAL

Ceasefire Reached in Thailand-Cambodia Conflict

1. What is the main cause of the clashes?

2. What happened in 1962 that has caused repeated arguments and fighting?

3. Why is the border area important?

4. What damage has the recent violence caused?

5. What have both governments said? Why may this not be easy?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What could happen if the border dispute is not clearly resolved soon?

INDIGENOUS CONNECTIONS

Cleanup of Polluted Mine Sites

1. Where is the Carcross/Tagish First Nation located?

2. What happened as a result of the mining companies working near the First Nation’s land?

3. What agreement did the Carcross/Tagish First Nations sign?

4. How does taking control help the community?

5. What does this cleanup work help repair and support?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Why should the First Nation be in charge of the cleanup?

ENVIRONMENT

Tsunami Warnings

1. What happened on July 30?

2. What is a tsunami?

3. How did Japan react to the earthquake?

4. What is the main concern with tsunamis?

5. What do many countries around the Pacific Ocean have?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What can communities do to prepare for a tsunami?

FEATURE

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

1. What is the purpose of this day?

2. What were residential schools designed to do?

3. What does the orange shirt symbolize?

4. Why was this day needed?

5. What is this day a chance to do?

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Why is it important to remember the history of residential schools?

Earthquake Strength

Earthquakes are measured on the Moment Magnitude Scale (MMS). Scientists use the MMS to determine the magnitude (strength) of an earthquake. The MMS measures the total energy of an earthquake. Below is a description of what happens when earthquakes of different strengths strike. The higher the number gets, the worse the damage becomes.

9.0 and above	Causes complete devastation.
8.0	Very few buildings stay up. Bridges fall down. Underground pipes burst. Railroad rails bend. Large rocks move. Smaller objects are tossed into the air. Some objects are swallowed up by the earth.
7.0	It is hard to keep your balance. The ground cracks. Roads shake. Weak buildings fall down. Other buildings are badly damaged.
6.0	Pictures can fall off walls. Furniture moves. In some buildings, walls may crack.
5.0	If you are in a car, it may rock. Glasses and dishes may rattle. Windows may break.
4.0	Buildings shake a little. It feels like a truck is passing by your house.
3.0	You may notice this quake if you are sitting still, or upstairs in a house. A hanging object, like a model airplane, may swing.
2.0	Trees sway. Small ponds ripple. Doors swing slowly. But you can't tell that an earthquake is to blame.
1.0	Earthquakes this small happen below ground. You can't feel them.

1. MMS stands for what?

2. What damage is done by a 1.0 magnitude earthquake?

3. What damage is done by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake?

4. What damage is done by an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 or above?

Political Cartoon

A political cartoon uses images to exaggerate an opinion, often in a humorous way. The main purpose of the cartoon is to show you the artist's point of view on a situation.



For each element in the image above, write a point or two about the element or how it relates to the rest of the image.

1. The item on the left

2. The items on the right

3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.

Map Activity: Cambodia

1. Locate and label the following countries:

CAMBODIA
CHINA
INDIA

LAOS
MALAYSIA
MYANMAR (BURMA)

THAILAND
VIETNAM

2. Locate and label the following cities:

Phnom Penh
Bangkok

Hanoi
Nay Pyi Taw

Vientiane

3. Locate and label the following bodies of salt water:

Andaman Sea

Gulf of Thailand

South China Sea

4. Create a colour legend for your map with the following:

Cambodia

Other Countries

Salt Water

5. Draw and label the compass bearing.

6. Label your map:

Cambodia and Neighbouring Countries

Map Activity: Cambodia



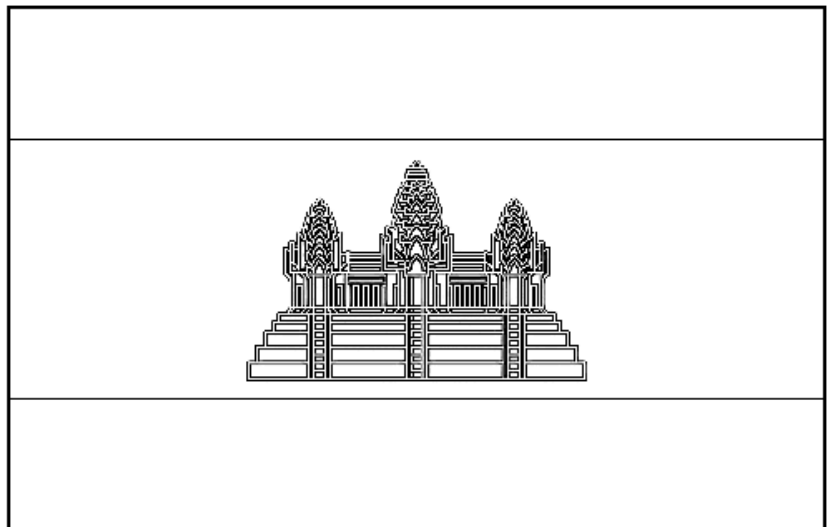
Looking at Cambodia

Cambodia is part of the continent of Asia. It borders the Gulf of Thailand, between Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. It is located 13 degrees north of the equator, giving it a climate that is tropical. Cambodia is almost one-half the size of Newfoundland and Labrador at 181 035 square kilometres. Cambodia has a population of 17 063 669 (2024 estimate) and a currency called the Cambodian riel (KHR). It takes almost 3000 riels to equal one Canadian dollar.

Use the map and the information on this page to answer the following questions.

1. What is the area of Cambodia? _____
2. What is the population of Cambodia? _____
3. What is the capital city of Cambodia? _____
4. What is the currency used in Cambodia? _____
5. What colours are on the flag of Cambodia? _____
6. Which countries border Cambodia? _____

7. Colour the flag as follows:
 Three horizontal bands of blue (top), red (double-width), and blue, with a white, three-towered temple representing Angkor Wat outlined in black in the centre of the red band



Monthly News Quiz

CANADA'S TRADE CHALLENGE

1. CUSMA is important for Canada's economy because it allows _____ to move across the border with little to no tariffs.
2. How much of Canadian exports go to the United States?
A. About three-quarters B. Almost half C. Less than one-third

CEASEFIRE REACHED IN THAILAND-CAMBODIA CONFLICT

1. Both Thailand and Cambodia claim ownership of land near the ancient temple called Preah Vihear.
True False
2. Both governments have said they want to keep _____ and resolve future problems through talks instead of fighting.

CLEANUP OF POLLUTED MINE SITES

1. What waste was leaked into the ground near the mines?
A. Radioactive waste B. Heavy metals C. Arsenic
2. The First Nation recently signed an agreement with the federal government that lets them take charge of the _____ process.

TSUNAMI WARNINGS

1. The earthquake that occurred on July 30, 2025, measured 5.8 in magnitude.
True False
2. The main concern with tsunamis is how _____ and powerful they can be.

Monthly News Answer Key

Canada's Trade Challenge

1. What is at the centre of this standoff? Why is it important?

At the centre of this standoff is CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement). CUSMA replaced the old NAFTA deal. It is important for Canada's economy because it allows goods to move across the border with little to no tariffs.

2. Why is tariff-free trade important for Canada?

About three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the United States. This makes tariff-free trade important for Canadian industries like cars, steel, and farming. Losing access to tariff-free trade could hurt businesses and jobs on both sides of the border.

3. What do experts believe about the new tariffs?

Experts believe that Trump is using new tariffs to negotiate changes to the deal that support U.S. interests. They believe this is more about getting more out of the next CUSMA deal than it is about fixing economic problems.

4. Why aren't Canada's government leaders rushing?

They want a good deal, not a quick fix. Prime Minister Mark Carney and his team are under pressure to protect Canada's access to the U.S. market, but they are also balancing the need not to give up too much in return.

5. What are Canadian businesses saying?

Canada's businesses say uncertainty can put jobs and investments at risk. Some are

calling on the government not to agree to a "bad deal" just to end the dispute.

Ceasefire Reached in Thailand-Cambodia Conflict

1. What is the main cause of the clashes?

The main cause is a long-standing border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia. Both countries claim ownership of land near the ancient temple called Preah Vihear.

2. What happened in 1962 that has caused repeated arguments and fighting?

In 1962, it was decided that the temple belongs to Cambodia, but the exact borders around the temple were never clearly defined. This unclear border has caused repeated arguments and fighting.

3. Why is the border area important?

The border area is important not only because of the temple's cultural value but also because of strategic and economic reasons. Each side sees giving up ground as losing part of their country.

4. What damage has the recent violence caused?

The recent violence destroyed many homes, forcing large numbers of people to flee their towns and villages. The fighting also hurt trade and damaged relations between Thailand and Cambodia.

5. What have both governments said? Why may this not be easy?

Both governments have said they want to keep peace and resolve future problems through talks instead of fighting. Experts warn that unless the border dispute is

Monthly News Answer Key

carefully and clearly settled, more clashes could happen. One ceasefire might not be enough to solve all the problems.

Cleanup of Polluted Mine Sites

1. Where is the Carcross/Tagish First Nation located?

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation is located in Yukon. Their traditional territory includes the area around Carcross and Tagish and extends to the border with British Columbia.

2. What happened as a result of the mining companies working near the First Nation's land?

Over time, waste from the mine sites leaked into the ground and nearby lakes. This included heavy metals and dangerous chemicals. This caused damage to the environment and created risks for plants, animals, and the people who use the land for hunting, fishing, and living.

3. What agreement did the Carcross/Tagish First Nations sign?

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation recently signed an agreement with the federal government that lets them take charge of the cleanup process. This means the First Nation can make decisions about how to fix the land in a way that respects their culture, values, and knowledge.

4. How does taking control help the community?

It gives people the chance to learn new skills and find jobs through the work needed to clean the sites. It also shows respect for the First Nation's right to care for their land.

5. What does this cleanup work help repair and support?

This cleanup work also helps repair the

damage done to the land and water, making it safer for plants, animals, and people. It supports the community's connection to their traditional territory and helps protect their way of life.

Tsunami Warnings

1. What happened on July 30?

A very strong earthquake hit near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on July 30, 2025. It measured 7.8 in magnitude, making it one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded.

2. What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of very large waves made when the sea floor suddenly moves. This can happen during earthquakes, underwater landslides, or volcanic eruptions.

3. How did Japan react to the earthquake?

After the earthquake in Russia, Japan quickly warned about possible tsunamis. They set up alerts to tell people to move to higher ground just in case. The warnings were lifted after it became clear no harmful waves would reach their coast.

4. What is the main concern with tsunamis?

The main concern with tsunamis is how fast and powerful they can be. When an earthquake happens underwater, there is very little time to warn people.

5. What do many countries around the Pacific Ocean have?

Many countries around the Pacific Ocean have early warning systems. These systems detect earthquakes and changes in sea level quickly so people can be alerted and evacuate if needed.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- 1. What is the purpose of this day?**
The purpose of this day is to remember the tragic history and the lasting effects of the Canadian Indian residential school system.
- 2. What were residential schools designed to do?**
Residential schools were designed to force Indigenous children to abandon their culture and language.
- 3. What does the orange shirt symbolize?**
The orange shirt symbolizes the story of Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor whose new orange shirt was taken away on her first day of school. The shirt has become a symbol of the forced assimilation many Indigenous children experienced.
- 4. Why was this day needed?**
The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was needed because Indigenous Peoples wanted a specific day to acknowledge these past wrongs and work towards healing and understanding. It is also a call for Canadians to recognize the ongoing discrimination and challenges Indigenous communities face.
- 5. What is this day a chance to do?**
This day is an important chance for people across Canada to participate in events, wear orange shirts, and take time to reflect on how the country can better support Indigenous rights and cultures. Its meaning reaches far beyond a day off work. It invites every Canadian to engage with the truth of history and to be part of the journey toward fairness and respect.

Earthquake Strength

- 1. MMS stands for what?**
Moment Magnitude Scale
- 2. What damage is done by a 1.0 magnitude earthquake?**
Earthquakes this small happen below ground. You can't feel them.
- 3. What damage is done by a 6.0 magnitude earthquake?**
Pictures can fall off walls. Furniture moves. In some buildings, walls may crack.
- 4. What damage is done by an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 or above?**
Causes complete devastation

Political Cartoon

- 1. The item on the left**
On the left is a heavy shipping container that is marked "Heavy Tariffs." It is causing the left side of the board to hit the ground.
- 2. The items on the right**
On the right side are objects that include a car, a house, groceries, and other household items. They are all being thrown up into the air because the right side of the board was forced up.
- 3. Put all of the elements together and explain in your own words what the cartoon is saying.**
Tariffs are causing prices for many things to increase. If tariffs get heavier, prices will go up even more.

Monthly News Quiz

CANADA'S TRADE CHALLENGE

1. CUSMA is important for Canada's economy

because it allows **GOODS** to move across the border with little to no tariffs.

2. **How much of Canadian exports go to the United States?**

A. About three-quarters

CEASEFIRE REACHED IN THAILAND-CAMBODIA CONFLICT

1. **Both Thailand and Cambodia claim ownership of land near the ancient temple called Preah Vihear.**

True

2. Both governments have said they want to keep **PEACE** and resolve future problems through talks instead of fighting.

CLEANUP OF POLLUTED MINE SITES

1. **What waste was leaked into the ground near the mines?**

B. Heavy metals

2. The First Nation recently signed an agreement with the federal government that lets them take charge of the **CLEANUP** process.

TSUNAMI WARNINGS

1. **The earthquake that occurred on July 30, 2025, measured 5.8 in magnitude.**

False – 8.8 in magnitude

2. The main concern with tsunamis is how **FAST** and powerful they can be.

