



COMMENT

Free-trade deal between Canada and Britain will set a new benchmark

Mary Ng

Thursday April 28 2022, 12:01am BST, The Times

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When Justin Trudeau and Boris Johnson met in London earlier this year, they committed to continue strengthening the Canada-UK relationship by working together on economic resilience, supporting critical supply chains and encouraging a shared economic recovery from the pandemic.

For [Canada](#), the UK is not just a critical ally, but also one of our longest-standing friends. We share close people-to-people ties as well as shared values and strong economic links. The UK was Canada's third-largest trading partner in 2021, with £24.5 billion in goods and services flowing between our two countries.

It has never been more important for countries like Canada and the UK to work together to strengthen the rules-based trading system and protect our people and our businesses.

course of international trade for years to come. As well as the obstacles of tomorrow, we are already seeing the challenges of today test the boundaries of our trading system.

Canada and the UK have been united in our steadfast condemnation of Russia's illegal [invasion of Ukraine](#) and clear that we stand for a free and democratic Ukraine. We see the effects of this war — [rising gas prices](#), disrupted supply chains and of course the horrific toll that it has taken on the [millions of Ukrainians](#), both throughout Europe and here in Canada.

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That is why a trade agreement between our two countries is so critical at this moment: as Canada's minister of international trade, export promotion, small business and economic development, it's my job to create opportunities for our businesses, with our allies, to build economic resilience in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On March 24, one month to the day after Russia's invasion, I welcomed [Anne-Marie Trevelyan](#), the UK international trade secretary, to Canada to announce that we and the United Kingdom will be launching negotiations towards a free trade agreement.

We are going to work towards an ambitious, progressive and comprehensive free trade agreement that best reflects Canada's

the bar for traditionally underrepresented groups such as women, minority ethnic and Indigenous peoples, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, making it easier for them feel the full benefits of trade.

It is an agreement that advances high standards for the environment and labour, and one that helps our businesses thrive into the future by benefitting from digital trade.

This new free-trade deal will help to make it easier for companies in both countries to export the innovative products and services that will keep our economies on the cutting edge and address the many challenges we face, including [climate change](#), creating the conditions to attract investment — in both directions — to build the green economy of the future.

Canada sees free trade with the UK as an incredible opportunity to support our businesses to scale-up and go global and create resilience in supply chains with partners who champion rules-based trade.

With negotiations currently under way, Canada and the UK will set the stage for a next generation free-trade agreement.

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Mary Ng is Canada's minister of international trade, export promotion, small business and economic development

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E**Euro Man** • 28 APRIL, 2022

...

There is already a deal in place - the EU one which both sides have rolled over. 98% of U.K. exports to Canada are already tariff free, a new deal won't add much. The Canadians want the U.K. to accept hormone treated beef. Ironically the U.K. government wants to reduce "red tape" for SMEs, a good o...[See more](#)

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D**Down Country** • 28 APRIL, 2022

...

But the EU FTA with Canada excluded Services - which is by a considerable margin one of the UK's biggest potential source of export revenues.

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K**Kalwant Singh** • 2 DAYS AGO

...

The UK has erected reams of red tape with the EU? They haven't. The reams of forms belong to the EU, the UK hasn't erected anything.

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F**Fenton Butler** • 28 APRIL, 2022

...

See the Remainers have set up camp in the Comments today. Again. *(Edited)*

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S**Stephen Poole** • 28 APRIL, 2022

...

Well it is an open goal. Again.

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D**disturb the comfortable comfort the dist...** • 2 DAYS AGO

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You don't have to have been a remain voter to now see the utter stupidity of Brexit.

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A**Adrian Cosker** • 28 APRIL, 2022

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It is a great time for Canada to negotiate a deal. We have a totally incompetent government with a leader desperate to save his skin by announcing brexit benefits. He'll sell the country down the river,

stage.

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I Cicero • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

Any increase in free trade with like minded democracies is usually a good thing.

Who are the U.K. indigenous people that will get special attention I wonder???

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R Realty Cheque • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

The Uk govt will do ANYTHING to headline a deal to the Daily Fail readers who will believe its amazing . Regardless of cost or benefits. Do not fall for this twaddle.

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D Digitalgoldfish • 27 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

What will Canada be exporting to us? Last year the single biggest export by far (8.2bn) was "Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins" followed a long way down the line (424mn) by "inorganic chemicals and precious metal compounds".. Doesnt sound like we're going to get a huge amount of value out of ...**See more** *(Edited)*

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Maple syrup?

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A Andrew Wilson • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

We already had a trade agreement with Canada so this will add approximately nothing.

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S SimpleEconomics • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

Canada. That would have been negotiated for the benefit of all 28 members not for the benefit focusing purely on the U.K.

So an FTA between the U.K. and Canada will be more beneficial for both. Why because France might have wanted something ...**See more**

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D **David Jones** • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

So nothing can be updated, improved upon?

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M **Michael Doughty** • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

The EU never allowed the U.K. free trade in services. Hope Canada is more forthcoming.

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M **Musselburgh Wain** • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

Wow! Tenacious bunch those Remainers.

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J **Jonesey** • 28 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

Well it is pretty obvious that an article spelling out the advantages of a free trade agreement with Canada is going to attract the obvious comment that without Brexit we would already be in one. Don't you think?

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S **Spongeworthy** • 27 APRIL, 2022 [...](#)

Very few - actually, no specifics here. What about dairy?

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