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Transpacific tides shifting for Canada-Asia trade

TRADE | Canada faces a tough choice on whether to deepen Beijing ties as China bids to join Asia free trade pact

BY CHUCK CHIANG
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With China applying to join the 11-country Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade pact, debate is heating up over whether Ottawa should strengthen its trade ties with Beijing by supporting the bid.

It includes Canada, Japan, Australia and is processing Great Britain's applications of China's application to join was a no, because the United States originally rejected the CPTPP as a rival trade bloc to China. President Trump pulled out of talks in 2016.

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B.C. business leaders' post-election wish list

ENTERPRISE | Decision-makers lay out what economic priorities they'd like the government to set

With the election over and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada handed another minority mandate, the federal government faces the task of getting back to steering through a stubbornly persistent pandemic and setting the country's economic direction for recovery. BIV has reached out to a cross-section of the top business leaders in the province for their views on what priorities that government should set as it pursues its agenda in the immediate future and the long run.

JOE ALPHONSE
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN, TSILHQOT'IN NATION
The Tsilhqot'in Nation has been on a mission to improve the lives of our people and of Indigenous peoples around the world. The future leader of Canada, and its government, needs to be our ally and not our enemy. We want to see real progress on the calls-to-action in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, as well as significant movement on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

BRIDGITTE ANDERSON
CEO, GREATER VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE
The new federal government needs to make the final push to ensure appropriate support measures remain in place so we can put this pandemic behind us. At the same time, it must address old and emerging challenges to our competitiveness, including reforming the tax and regulatory regime, taking meaningful action to address the housing crisis, and ensuring we are training, attracting and retaining the talent we need for the jobs of the future. The plan must be affordable and offer an inclusive vision that builds a more prosperous Canada."

KIM BAIRD
CONSULTANT; CHANCELLOR, KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY; FORMER CHIEF, TSAWASSEN FIRST NATION
The next federal government has to find the courage to tackle the biggest public policy challenges of our time. These challenges include getting through the pandemic and building a re-invented Canada. This new re-invented Canada must address Indigenous rights, climate change and the economy. Canada can build on the recently passed United Nations

Declaration legislation to not only deal with Indigenous legal rights, but to address Indigenous socio-economic gaps, including infrastructure, child removal, poverty reduction, education and so on. The government has to try to lead inclusively and to mend many bridges if we are to meet climate targets and if we are to rebuild the economy for everyone's benefit.

CHRIS CATLIFF
PRESIDENT AND CEO, BLUESHORE FINANCIAL
With many new programs, the current government financially supported Canadians during the pandemic. Our debt-to-GDP ratio skyrocketed. This flood of money caused inflation, which is currently running at 4.1%. The new government will need to balance spending and work with the Bank of Canada otherwise many Canadians' savings will be ravaged by inflation.

GREG D'AVIGNON
CEO, BUSINESS COUNCIL OF BC
Canada has extraordinary potential and an opportunity to become a country that impacts global issues like climate change, while also expediting important matters here at home, including reconciliation. The next government needs to recognize the reality of Canada's place in the world and present a clear vision for Canada's future and then act on it. Canada meaningfully needs to build on our strengths and advance our nation's interests by creating the conditions to attract capital and increase productivity to improve the quality of life for the country's communities, citizens and future generations.

ANDREW D'ECA
PARTNER, RECRUITING IN MOTION - VANCOUVER
I want the government to stop calling elections every 18 months and to remain focused on eliminating the COVID-19 threat so that businesses can resume and employees will return to work and feel safe to return to work. Right now the biggest challenge is not creating jobs, it is getting employees to work.

MEERU DHALWALA
CO-OWNER, VIJ'S RESTAURANT
Agricultural and fisheries policies that co-ordinate sustainable food/animal farming, soil regeneration (rather than depletion), and rely less on fossil fuels and pesticides. Also, policies to make it faster for foreign workers to get visas to



Deregulation is one of the most frequently cited requests among B.C. business leaders asked to name their priorities for the newly re-elected federal government | MARIUS GOMES/MOMENT/GETTY IMAGES

work in Canada, and a change to make it so businesses are forgiven interest payments on any loans for the time period they were regulated closed by government during the pandemic.

ROBIN DHIR
PRESIDENT, TWIN BROOK DEVELOPMENTS LTD.
It is critical for any incoming government to look at long-term competitiveness, and not only look at short-term fixes to clean up the huge debt that has been accumulated, more recently, in the name of COVID-19 relief. There will be temptation to tinker with principal-residence and capital-gains exemptions, and that would be extremely detrimental to not only keeping investment in Canada, but also attracting investment from outside our borders.

KARIMAH ES SABAR
CEO, QUARK VENTURE LP
The future of Canada depends on a solid and sustainable innovation economy across all industry sectors to remain competitive and to provide a high quality of life for all Canadians. Without an innovation-driven, digital and green-economy-focused agenda, Canadians' aspirations cannot be achieved in a sustainable way. In particular, I urge the new government not to miss this opportunity of leveraging Canada's strengths to build world-leading bio and clean economies in Canada.

THOMAS FUNG
CEO, FAIRCHILD GROUP
I would like to see the government impose higher capital gains and other taxes on passive incomes. Share the lazy gains with people who work hard. I also would like to see higher taxes on non-essential travels and luxury foods, because

privilege has a price.

MICHAEL GOEHRING
PRESIDENT, MINING ASSOCIATION OF BC
B.C.'s mining industry would like to see the federal government improve our country's flagging competitive position globally with respect to taxation and regulation. One key area of focus would include the next federal government continuing to push for a fair and equitable treatment of the carbon tax across provinces for energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries. There is a tremendous opportunity for B.C. to become a preferred,

responsible for the medium-term future low-carbon economy while simultaneously reducing emissions and helping change tar

CELESTE HATCHER
CHIEF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER
The priorities of all Canadian governments are integral with Indigenous peoples and remain of to all people. Re

Government that an act the declaration collaborati peoples with parliament have a responsibility commitment.

ANITA HUBERMAN
CEO, SURREY BOARD OF TRADE

Businesses play a foundational role in delivering economic growth, although it is up to governments to create the conditions that enable growth to occur. Focus on comprehensive tax reform; address labour shortages; revenue generation to reduce debt; enhanced social infrastructure across the country; reliable and sustainable international trade opportunities for all businesses; a clear strategy to get infrastructure dollars to projects quickly to create jobs; an immigration and international student strategy that enables productive career and entrepreneurial outcomes; affordable child care; and a national pharmacare plan to alleviate the burden on business.

WENDY HURLBURT
CEO, LIFESCIENCES BC
Life sciences will continue to be a significant driver of future growth, prosperity and health in our country. The new government should capitalize without delay on our recent collective experience to seize this significant opportunity. Canadian life sciences need development of a comprehensive national life sciences strategy in alignment across governments, industry and academia; investment in the development, attraction, and retention of critical talent; and a

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With compounding fixed costs