

US-Canadian Relations in an Age of Uncertainty



Bohay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development

CSG Midwest | July 7, 2026

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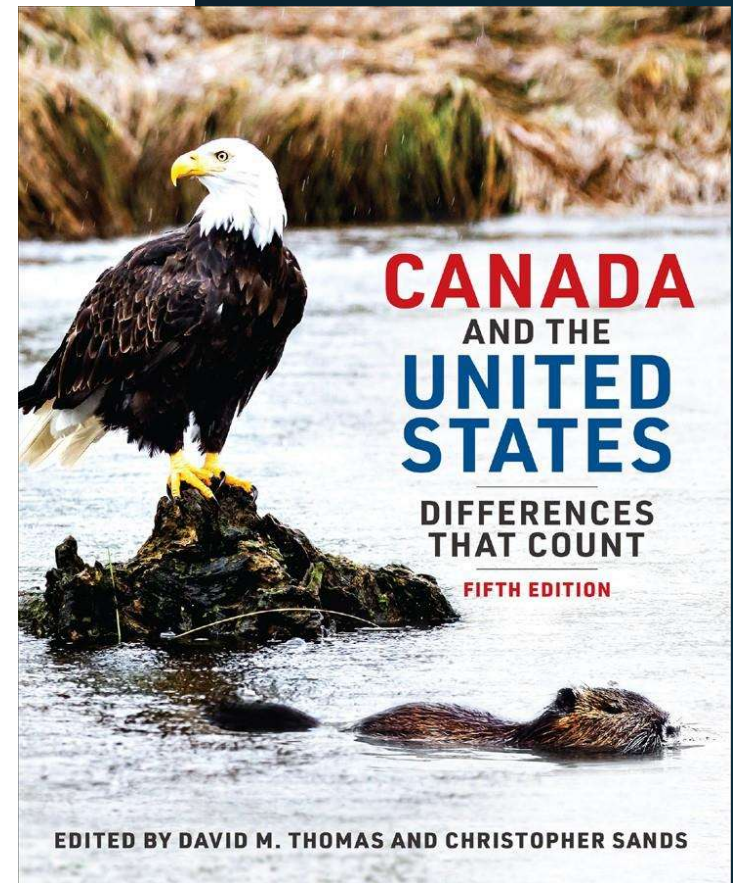


JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL of ADVANCED
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Center for U.S.-Canada Studies

Thinking about US Connections to Canada

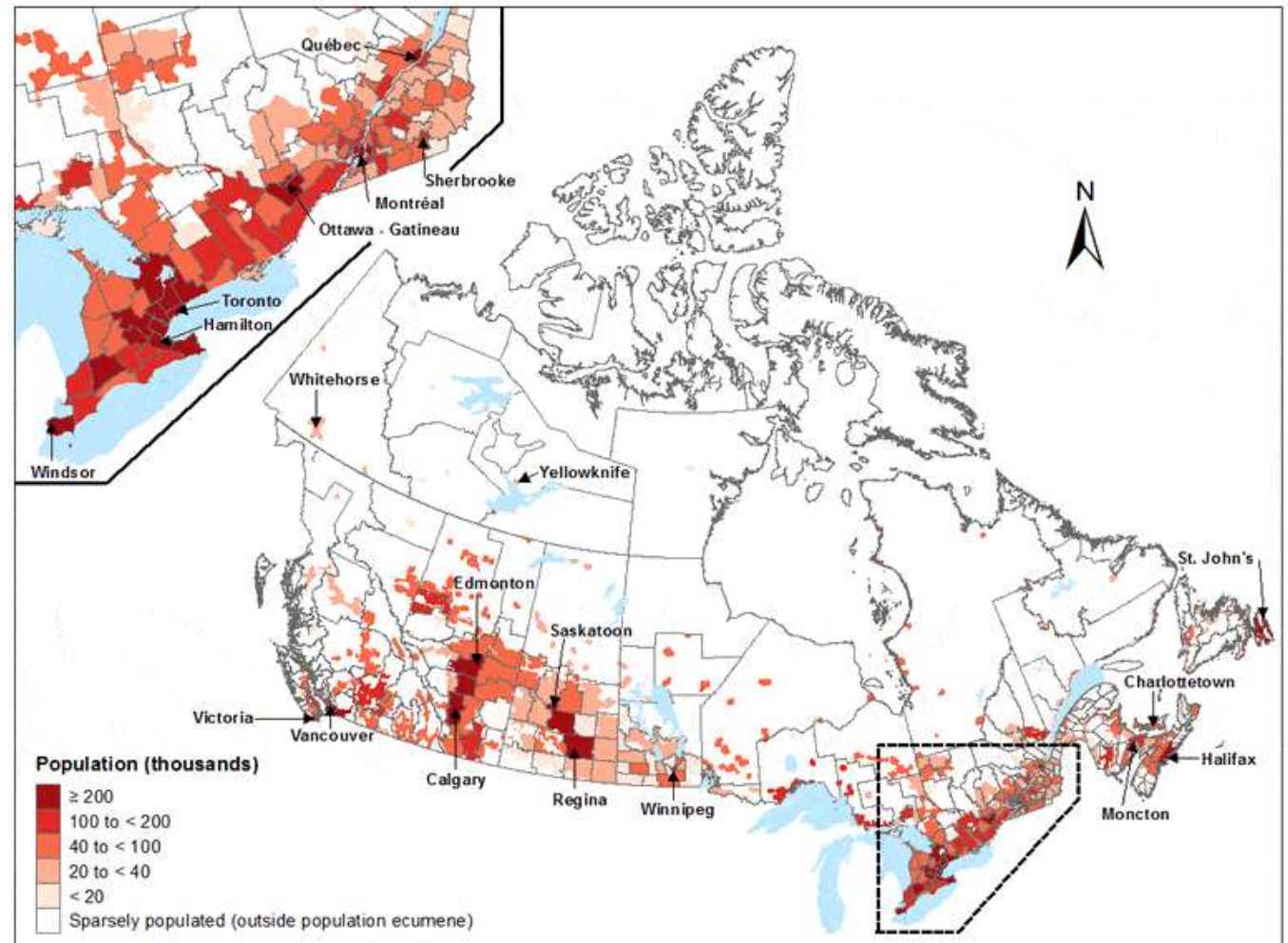
- Neighbors: The Border
- Partners: Trade
- Allies: 9/11 Impacts
- Friends: COVID Cooperation



The Border

90 percent of Canadians within 100 miles of the United States

North to South rather than East to West



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Border Basics

5525 miles

119 land border crossings

5 handle 70% of trucks and cars: Detroit, Buffalo, Port Huron, Blaine, Champlain

Toward a **New Frontier** Improving the U.S.-Canadian Border



 Metropolitan Policy Program
at BROOKINGS

 **CIC**
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DU CANADA

Post 1945 to 2001

Wartime production, postwar
rationalization of capacity

Defense Production Sharing Agreement
(1956)

Automotive Production Sharing Agreement
(1965)

Canada – United States Free Trade
Agreement (1989)

North American Free Trade Agreement
(1994) and “temporary shift” of personnel

Post 1945 to 2001

Permanent Joint Board on Defense (1940)
Military Coordination Committee (1946)

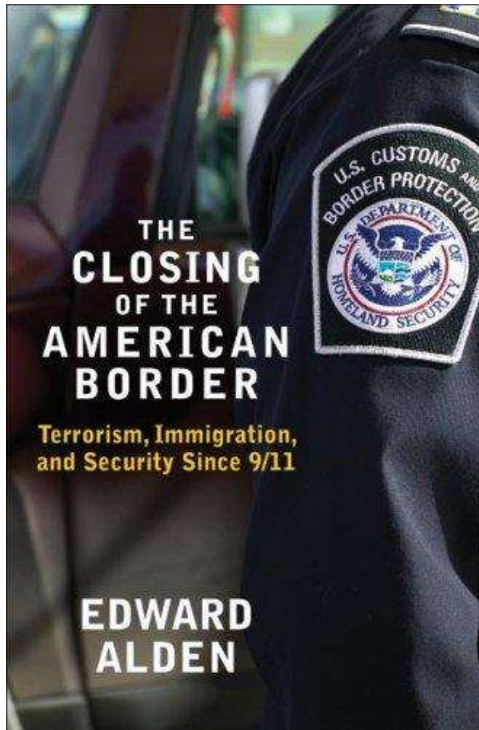
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)
aka NATO

North American Air/Aerospace Defense
command (1957) aka NORAD

Wales Summit 2% of GDP Goal

Vilnius (2023), Washington (2024), Carney
pledge (2025)

9/11 Impact



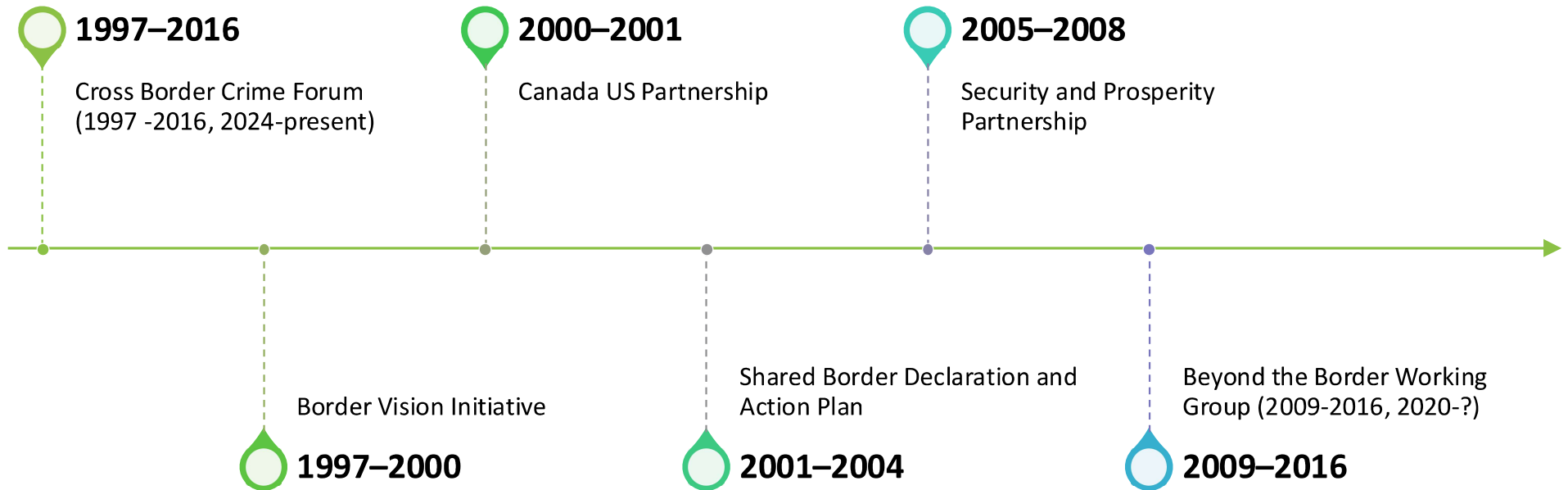
On September 11, 2001, short-term closure of land, sea, and air borders

US proposes a perimeter with Canada, Canada says no

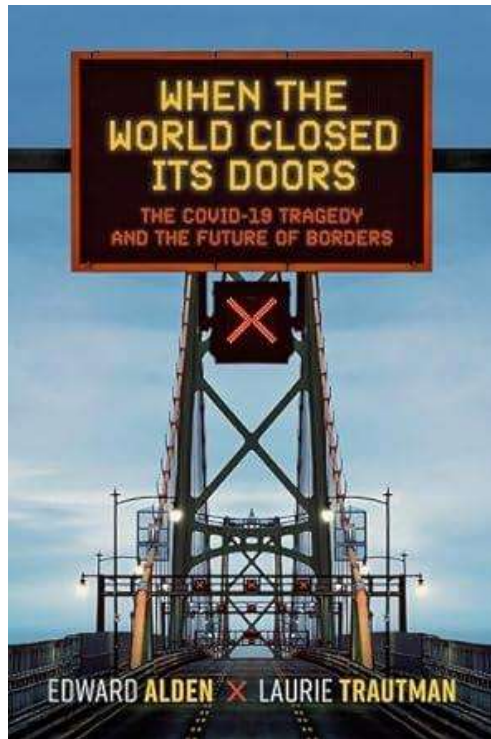
Concentric circles, technology versus instinct

“Security Trumps Trade”

Searching for Solutions



COVID Impact



“Joint” Border Restrictions

North American Plant and Animal
Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI) Plan

Misaligned requirements

Revised plan

USMCA

NAFTA Renegotiation

Rules of Origin now product specific,
include special content requirements

Dispute panels limited, domestic trade
courts preferred

Digital Trade Provisions new, Guardrails
for Governance new

Review and Renew

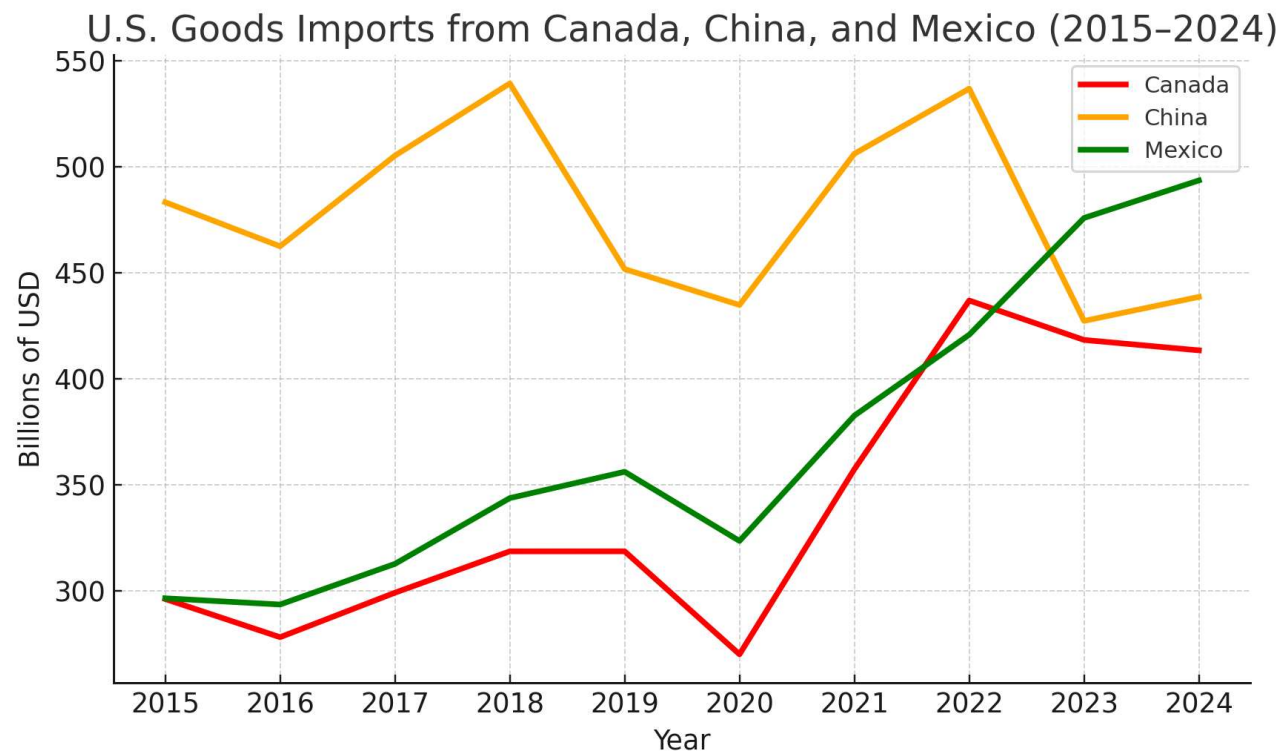
USMCA Review: What Happened?

- Review designed for updates and political recommitment
- Instead, the countries talked about other disputes
- Negotiations continue
- 2027 review



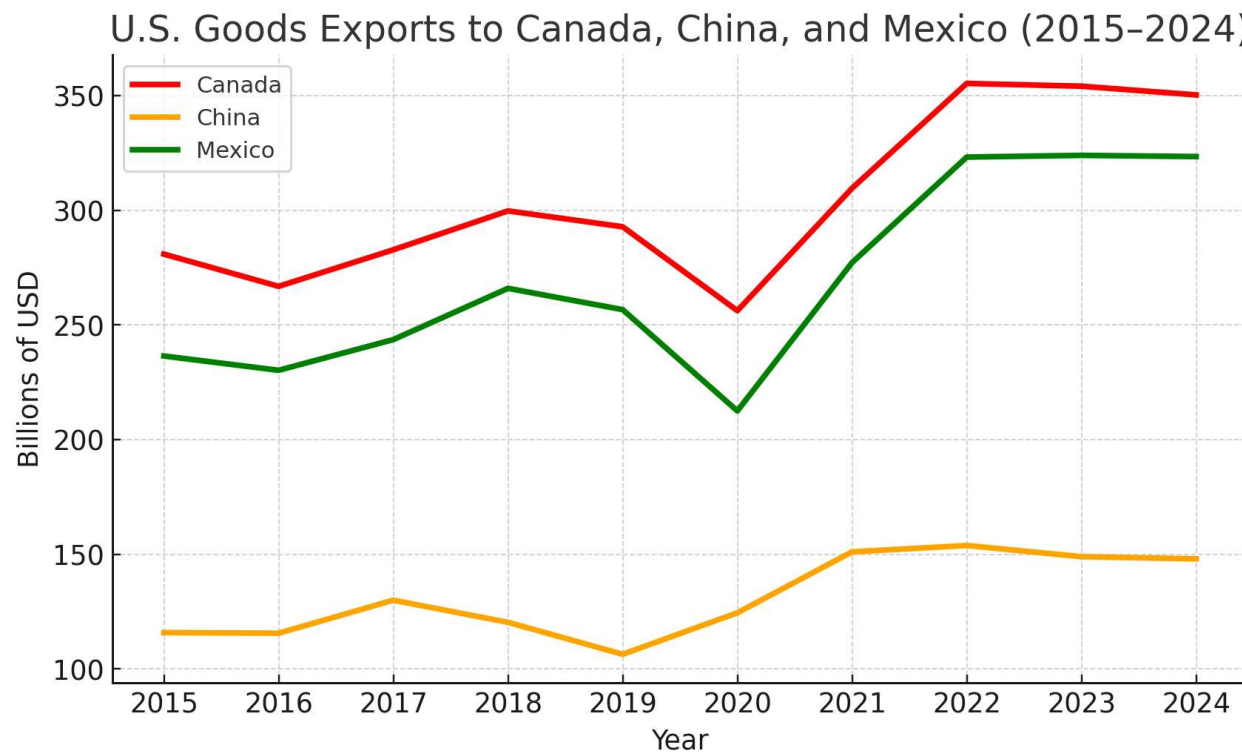
U.S. Goods Imports from Canada, China, and Mexico (2015–2024)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, FT-900 Country Tables (goods, nominal, not seasonally adjusted).



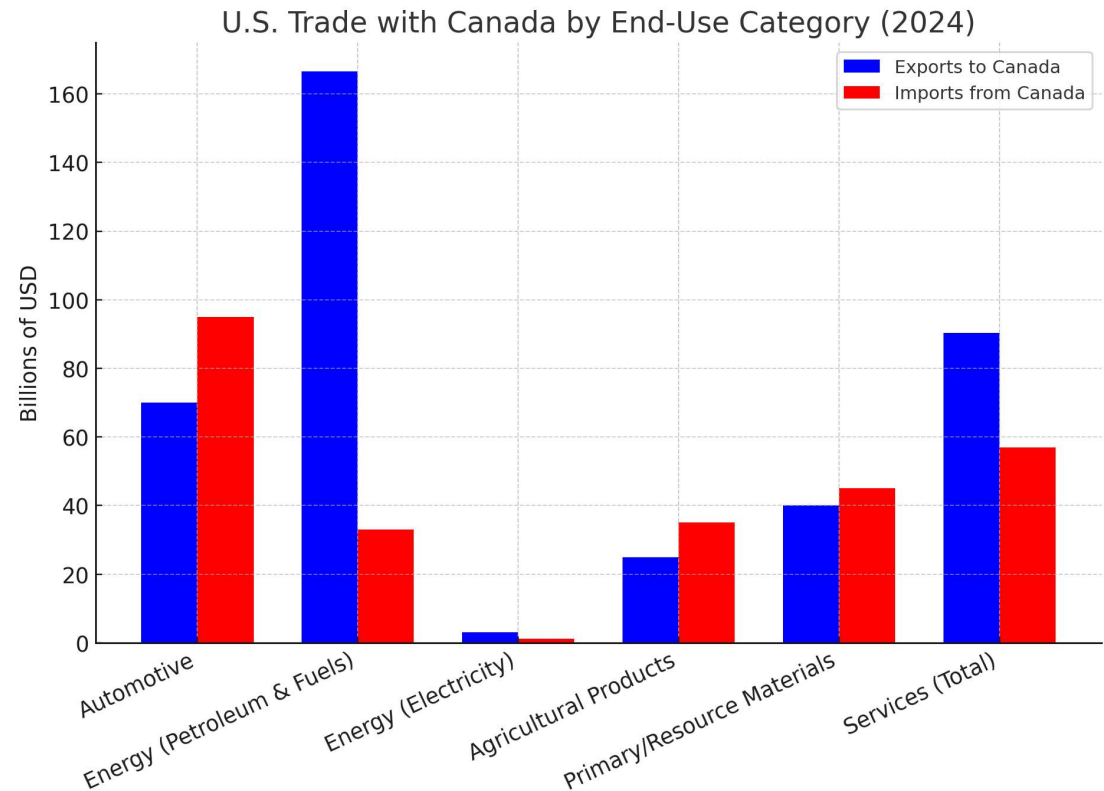
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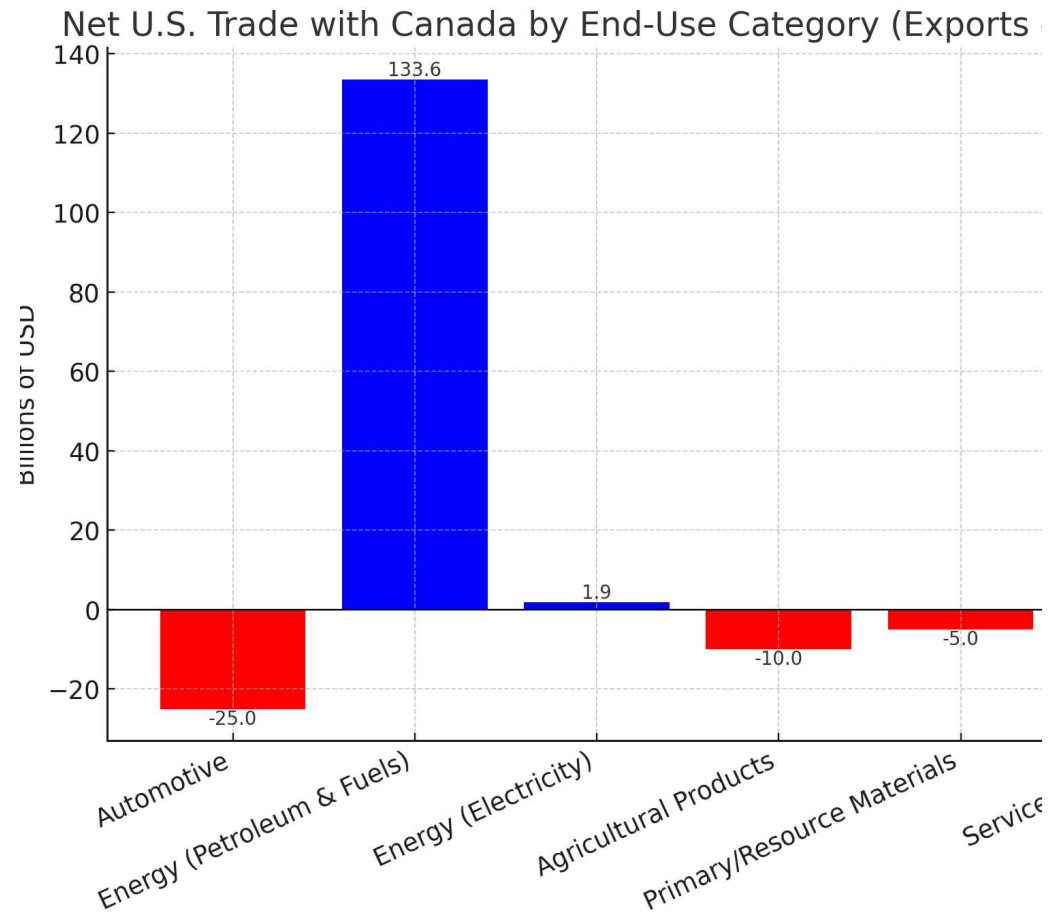
U.S. Trade with Canada by End-Use Category (2024)

- Sources: U.S. Census Bureau FT-900 (goods, end-use categories); USTR & BEA (services); CER (energy trade).



Net U.S. Trade with Canada by End-Use Category (Exports – Imports, 2024)

- Sources: U.S. Census Bureau FT-900 (goods, end-use categories); USTR & BEA (services); CER (energy trade).



Enter the Trade Wars

- 35% reciprocal tariffs effective from August 1, 2025.
- 25% tariffs on automobiles, light trucks, and parts.
- 10% tariffs on energy products and potash.
- 50% Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum products.



Source: Getty Images / CNN

On the Front Lines

- Elbows Up – Election and After
- Boycott by shoppers
- Retreat of the Snowbirds
- Discretionary travel down
- Trade and investment impacts of exchange rate shifts, uncertainty

NEW YORK

**You Have No Idea
How Furious the Canadians Are**



And without them, what friends do we have left?

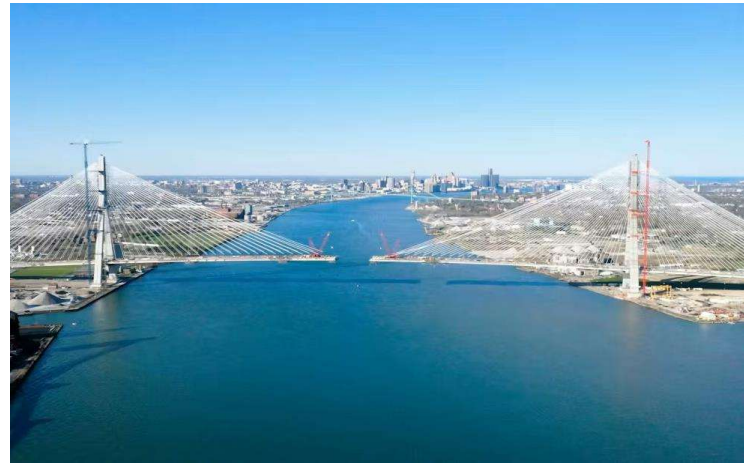
By **SIMON VAN ZUYLEN-WOOD**

We Pay for What We Care For

Continental Defense



Gordie Howe International Bridge



How to Weigh In

- Trade Promotion Authority?
- USMCA Free Trade Commission
- Three Options:
 - Review and Renew As-Is
 - Review and Withdraw
 - Review and Don't Renew
- Follow-through on implementation



What's the Big Deal?

