

**JAGMEET SINGH**

DÉPUTÉ | MP, BURNABY SOUTH | BURNABY-SUD

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

January 15, 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing with regard to the extraordinary situation with which Canada will be confronted in short order.

Canadians from all walks of life are deeply troubled by incoming US President Donald Trump's threat to enact tariffs on Canadian products immediately upon assuming office. These tariffs would increase prices and cost jobs on both sides of the border. Canadians are already struggling with the high cost-of-living. We cannot afford to sit back and watch events unfold – Canadians expect the government to take a proactive approach that brings Canada together to fight this assault in a coordinated way.

In recent days we have seen Premiers send contradictory messages to the incoming administration about possible actions to be taken in response to tariffs. And we have seen businessman Kevin O'Leary, who does not speak for Canada or for Canadian businesses, attempt to negotiate directly with President-elect Trump on matters including Canadian passports. In the absence of a coordinated approach, these one-offs will continue, and they could have a lasting impact on our ability to respond to US threats.

We cannot continue with an everybody-for-themselves approach.

I understand that you have convened an in-person meeting with Canada's premiers. This is a positive step. It is within this spirit that I am formally requesting that this table be expanded on an ongoing basis. Canada's premiers, the leaders of all federal parties represented in Parliament, Indigenous organizations, labour unions and industrial and business leaders need to be brought together immediately to chart a united response to Donald Trump's tariffs.

Next month, a joint mission of Canada's Premiers will visit Washington, D.C. to meet with members of the new American Administration. And Canadian business and labour leaders engage on a daily basis with their U.S. counterparts on matters of mutual interest and concern. Bringing all these voices together to one common table will better coordinate these efforts. And it will help forge the all-hands-on-deck approach that this moment demands.

It is unfortunate that within this context, you have chosen to prorogue Parliament. All parties standing united against Donald Trump in the House of Commons could have sent a powerful signal against his belligerence. And House of Commons committees could have been an avenue to forge a concerted approach.

Nonetheless, I do believe that there is an opportunity in the days ahead to bring people together and to begin this vital work. In the face these extraordinary circumstances, I have been heartened to see Canadians from all walks of life standing up for Canada, expressing a view that our shared values, our institutions, and our independence will not be compromised. This groundswell of unity and support needs to be reflected at the highest level.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagmeet Singh', written in a cursive style.

Jagmeet Singh, MP
Burnaby South
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada

CC:

Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Official Opposition

Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois

Doug Ford, Ontario Premier, Chair of the Council of the Federation