



## Canada announces support for Turkish and Syrian temporary residents

March 18, 2023—Mississauga, Ontario—As part of Canada's response to the situation in Türkiye and Syria, the Government of Canada has been processing temporary and permanent residence applications from people affected by the devastating earthquakes on a priority basis, including applications for refugee resettlement.

Today, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced new immigration measures to support Turkish and Syrian temporary residents in Canada who may be unable to return home at this time due to the destruction caused by the earthquakes in the region.

Effective March 29, 2023, Turkish and Syrian nationals can continue to study, work or visit family by applying for an extension of their status free of charge. An open work permit pathway will be made available for Turkish and Syrian nationals already in Canada. These measures will make it easier for Turkish and Syrian nationals who wish to extend their temporary status in Canada and to move between temporary streams.

Recognizing that some permanent residence applicants have lost their travel documents as a result of the earthquakes, we will waive the requirement to hold a passport or travel document to be approved for a permanent resident visa to come to Canada. We are also making it easier for Canadian citizens and permanent

residents from Türkiye and Syria to return to Canada by waiving fees for temporary passports, limited-validity passports or emergency travel documents, as well as Canadian citizenship certificates and permanent resident travel documents.

These new measures build on work already under way to prioritize overseas applications from those who have been personally impacted by the earthquakes. New and existing temporary residence applications from the affected regions, as well as permanent residence applications-including refugee resettlement applications-are all being processed on a priority basis. This includes visitor visa applications for immediate family members of Canadian citizens and Canadian permanent residents, so they can join

their loved ones in Canada.

Canada is also working with UN partners in the area to provide temporary shelter for refugees in Canada's resettlement process who have been seriously impacted while they wait for their applications to be processed. We will continue to closely monitor the needs of people in the region and will adapt our response as needed.

Quotes: "Canada is committed to providing relief to those impacted by the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. We are already prioritizing the processing of applications from those affected and today we are introducing new measures that make it easier for Turkish and Syrian nationals to extend their stay in Canada and be with their families, while continuing to work and study in a safe environment. Our government will always stand ready to respond to emerging international crises and support those in need."

—The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship ☆☆☆

## Afghan refugees want Canada to bring more family and friends to join them

Atiq fled Afghanistan shortly before the Taliban took control of Kabul. He went to Turkey, where he is now living in a basement without any status, working in a bakery and facing the risk of deportation every day.

"I feel like I'm in jail, scared to go out of my one room beyond work. I'm just counting the days until I can come to Canada. I'm getting depressed," he said with the aid of a translator.

CBC agreed to only use Atiq's first name to protect his identity. He said if he tried to obtain refugee status in Turkey, he would be caught and deported to Afghanistan.

"A few months ago, the Turkish police took some of my friends and deported them to Iran, from there to Pakistan where they were handed over to the Taliban. None of them ever reached home to their families."

Monday is Nowruz, the Persian new year. The popular festival celebrated throughout Iran and Central Asia is usually marked by a public holiday, with families gathering to prepare festive dishes and welcome the spring.

The Taliban, however, cancelled the public holiday, saying it does not carry any significance in Islam.

CBC spoke with recent newcomers, and with Afghan nationals hoping to be allowed to come to Canada before the start of Nowruz.

As Canada inches closer to its target of resettling 40,000 Afghan refugees before the end of the year, many want the program to be extended.

Atiq and his family members were well-known human and women rights activists. Atiq's uncle Amanullah Arian said the Taliban has been pestering Atiq's father for his and his sister's whereabouts.

"The Taliban has taken Atiq's father to jail a few times to beat him up," Arian said.

Atiq's sister has been married off and is hiding in a village in Afghanistan, as the Taliban wanted to catch her.

"When I last spoke with Atiq's sister, she was really afraid of her safety. She speaks English and that is an evil language for the Taliban. All her dreams have now fallen apart,"



Mariam Arian, Atiq's aunt, said.

Hope for a Nowruz reunited with family

Atiq's uncle, aunt and three other sponsors have been trying to bring the 29-year-old to safety in Brampton, Ont., since 2021. They submitted an application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on June 23, 2022.

"Our hope is that this will be the last Nowruz that we celebrate without Atiq here. No one should be alone on Nowruz," Mariam said.

"We were naive to think that it would be less than a year that he will join us."

"Because Aman and Mariam as sponsors share an email address. Just like the married couple share a residential address, they share an email address too," Andrew Koltun, their immigration lawyer, said, noting it was an arbitrary criteria that does not exist as a rule.

Amanullah created another email address, but Koltun said it could take upwards of five years to get Atiq to Canada.

Atiq said he wants to resume studying law in Canada and restart his life.

Koltun said applications are not processed on a "first come, first serve basis," which can make the wait endless. He said when the invasion started in Ukraine, a large number of resources were shifted away from Afghans to people coming from there.

According to IRCC, 28,825 Afghan refugees have arrived since August 2021. However, in the last year, Canada has approved 603,681 of the 922,386 applications it received from Ukrainian nationals under its special

immigration program. At least 184,908 Ukrainian nationals have already arrived with more on their way.

"It's very frustrating to see Afghan nationals only come to Canada on such sponsorships while and through the government moves heaven and earth to create special immigration programs for Ukrainians," Koltun said.

It is unclear if Canada might increase its target of 40,000 Afghan refugees.

"Unfortunately, a crisis of this magnitude means that there will always be more demand for resettlement to Canada than we are able to provide," IRCC said in an email statement.

"Talibans shattered my dreams" Najibullah Sorosh, an Afghan refugee who arrived in Saskatchewan in 2021, said the government should increase the target to at least save vulnerable women and girls. He said the situation is deplorable in Afghanistan, as it is in Ukraine.

Back in Afghanistan, Sorosh was the co-founder of two well-known high schools, where half of the 5,000 students were girls. While a few fled, close to 2,500 of his girl students are still in Afghanistan.

"The situation is very sad in Afghanistan, especially for women and girls. They are not allowed to work or be educated or go to school," he said. "All the time they're staying at home."

Sorosh said his students often message and call him, desperately asking him to get them out of there, but he feels helpless. He said a school term used to begin on the third day of

Nowruz in Afghanistan.

"This year, while boys will go to school, girls will again stay home. Their new year used to be always with joy and happiness and celebrations, but now it's a sad time for the girls," Sorosh said.

"I feel guilty that I'm in a safe place with a job and future ahead, but my students and teachers are stuck there."

"I had lots of hopes, goals and dreams before the Taliban came and made the terrible changes, something no one would have expected in the 21st century," Shakila Jafari, who was hoping to finish Grade 12, said.

Jafari said she was very studious and was working hard on honing her skills, especially her English, to earn scholarships for higher education abroad.

"We are not allowed to leave our homes, let alone the country. There's nothing to do," she said. "The biggest problem is that the Taliban is no longer issuing us passports. I will keep studying from home meanwhile."

She wants Canadian universities to provide free online courses.

Najibullah, who wanted to become a psychologist, asked her school administration if she could study disguised as a boy.

"I feel I've lost everything. This is not just my problem, it's for thousands of girls here. The Taliban shattered my dreams," Wahidi, who was assisting other girls in improving their language and computer skills, said.

She is still preparing for the TOEFL test to apply to Canadian universities.

Last week, the Taliban closed down the women's library in Kabul—the only remaining place to seek some educational resources in the city.

Saliba Wakilii, who recently graduated, was looking forward to her undergraduate studies, with an eye on becoming a doctor.

"Now, I can't appear in any educational institution, so I must bury my dreams and ambitions. I'm still trying to study, as no one wants to stay in this country."

Sorosh's niece, Eillah Elham, knows the three girls well and wants them to be safe in Canada.

Elham, 15, is attending Grade 10 in Prince Albert, working on her English language and rebuilding her life. She said knowing her friends are struggling without basic human rights is torment. She said one of her best friends, who is barely 19, is getting married to a man in Australia in hopes of escaping.

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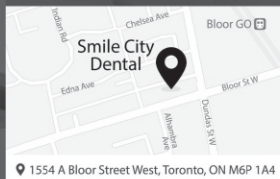
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Shalin Bhanot gets injured on sets of Bekaboo; survives cuts on his body

A few days back, popular TV actress Shingvi Joshi revealed that she was hospitalized due to a kidney infection. As soon as the actress made the official announcement, reports stated that due to her health condition, Shingvi has taken a break from her latest serial, Bekaboo, in which she is playing a brick comely. While the fantasy drama is all set to make its debut on TV screen today, it is March 18, there is another bad news for the fans. As per the latest buzz, the lead of Bekaboo, Shalin Bhanot has got injured on the sets. If a report by BollywoodLife is something to go by, then Bhanot has been injured on the sets and it happened in the first few days of the shoot itself. The report stated that former Bigg Boss contestant got cuts on his body due to the terrain of the sets. The portal quoted a source saying, "Shalin flood injuries on his body and it's commented on the show continued to shoot despite his injuries. Shalin has been at it with the action sequences and the high-end drama in the show as he continues to



Shalin Bhanot on the set of the show Bekaboo. He is seen being treated for injuries sustained during a scene.

Kareena Kapoor Loves Being A Housewife, Says 'Managing Home Is My Department, From Ghar Pe Khana Kya Bana Hai To Sahab Kya Kha Rahe'

Kareena Kapoor Khan is not just an outstanding actor but she is also a doting mom to two kids and a proud housewife. She is one such star who knows how to strike a perfect balance in her professional as well as personal life. In a recent interview, Behl confesses that she loves being a housewife and managing her home. The actress revealed there are some specific departments of her household that are strictly dedicated to her. She has jurisdiction, especially the department of food in her home. Speaking with Film Companion, the Jab We Met Actress said, "Everything is my department, from planning what the kids eat at home, their playdates, their classes, generally ghar pe khana kya bana hai, sahab kya kha rahe



Kareena Kapoor Khan with her children. She is seen smiling and talking about her role as a housewife.

Sushmita Sen HEART ATTACK!

The reports of Sushmita Sen suffering a heart attack was a shree shock to her fans and a family member. Having been regarded as one of the fittest actors in Bollywood, many were in disbelief of the reports. Nevertheless, Sushmita Sen has made significant progress in her recovery from a heart attack and has finally resumed her work again. Dr. Rajiv Bhagwat, the cardiologist who performed Sen's surgery, was asked if the 47-year-old diva overlooked any red flags. He said, "It's difficult to say that, but let's say, 'Sushmita is blessed that she came in at the right time and place.'"

With World Cup in sight, Bangladesh look to expand squad options

Rangana Herath, the Bangladesh spin coach, said that they are eyeing to expand their spin bowling group ahead of this year's 50-over World Cup, slated to be played in India. The inclusion of Tajjul Islam for the ODIs against England was a surprising move considering he was not regular in the ODI set up in recent years. Tajjul has played 15 ODIs so far in his career, the last of which came against Zimbabwe in 2022 where he conceded 166 runs in 30 overs and picked six wickets at an economy rate of 5.46. Tajjul, however, failed to retain his spot in the squad for the opening two ODIs against Ireland as team management opted to see another left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed. Nasum did not disappoint the team management, returning figures of 3 for 43 at the Sylhet International Stadium in the series opener and could potentially stake a claim for a spot in the ODI squad with Tajjul.

Sri Lanka counterattack despite faltering against short-ball ploy

Half-centuries by Dinesh Chandimal and Dhananjaya De Silva notwithstanding, New Zealand maintained a dominant posture at Lunch of Day 4 of the Basin Reserve Test, in Wellington. The hosts bugged three wickets in the morning session on Monday while Chandimal and Dhananjaya's 126-run stand for the fifth wicket helped reduce the deficit to 167 as Sri Lanka attempted to revive their position in the contest. New Zealand struck twice early in the day, Kasun Mendis, looking to take the attack to the host bowlers, pulled Matt Henry's short delivery straight to the mid-wicket fielder in the very first over of the day, without any run added to the overnight score. Angelo Mathews, who was watchful on Sunday evening to help the side safely to stumps, fell less than three overs later. The veteran batter too fell to a bouncer, failing to keep the ball down and hitting out Blair Ticker on the fielder at square leg. The short ball tactic which got New Zealand the two early breakthroughs returned their go-to tactic for the rest of the session, Ticker providing that option in the absence of the usual exponent Neil Wagner. However, Dhananjaya and Dinesh Chandimal didn't go on the defensive. The duo took them on and picked up eight boundaries each to ensure New Zealand scored runs at a brisk pace, as the visitors added 136 runs in the session. Both the batters brought up their half-century-mark with a boundary. The momentum they gathered by picking quick runs off



Dhananjaya de Silva batting during the match. He is seen in a batting stance, looking towards the field.

USA to remain co-host of 2024 T20 WC despite recent turmoil

The United States will continue to remain the joint hosts of the 2024 Twenty20 World Cup along with Cricket West Indies (CWI). Crickbuzz can confirm that the match will be spread across the US and the Caribbean islands (across the West Indies) with a formula for the distribution of number of games in each country to be finalized. A formal clarification on the matter was issued at the Chief Executive Meeting (CEM) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday and a source, who is a member of the CEM, has confirmed this to Crickbuzz. An announcement on this issue could be made after the ICC is done with the on-going series of meetings on Monday. The CEM clarification, when it was raised by a participant, comes amid speculation of internal turmoil in the USA Cricket and questions being raised over the country's right to host the global event. There was further clarification from the CEM that by virtue of being the co-host, the United States national team will auto-qualify for the tournament and it will be one of the 20 teams that will compete in it. There will be four groups in a 55-match tournament to be played over 25 days starting in June next year. There will be four groups in the 55-match tournament to be played over 25 days starting in June next year. Finance distribution model Over the next couple of days, the global administrators will formally kick-start discussions around the principles of financial distributions for the next cycle of the ICC events. One may recall that it was one of the contentious points among members and had led to the much-debated Position Paper and emergence of the Big Three who had argued that the distribution model should be commensurate with the revenue generated from each member country.

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## Why asylum seekers are choosing Canada in record numbers

On a snowy winter day, Roxham Road is cold and quiet. The silence is interrupted by the sound of wheels approaching the end of the path, or the scurrying of footsteps on snow.

Around 150 migrants are dropped off here each day, determined to step foot into Canada. Many began their journey as far away as Brazil, with this road in New York state as their finish line.

Roxham Road is not an official border point. There are no border agents at the end of it, only police officers who meet those who cross.

But it has become known as an accessible spot to enter Canada from the US in order to claim asylum. Last year marked the highest influx of migrants into Canada via that pathway - with thousands lured by the country's reputation for helping those fleeing war and conflict.

The influx has led to growing frustration on both sides of the border about the path, increasing concerns about its future, and questions about what the future holds for those who make the journey. Roxham Road rose to national



attention in 2017 when migrants, fleeing displacement and conflict, began crossing there in large numbers. Some pinned its sudden popularity to fears of deportation from the US under the Trump administration, others to a tweet by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that read: "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you."

The influx caught Canadian officials off guard. Montreal's Olympic Stadium was briefly converted into housing for newly-arriving migrants. The federal government tried to stem the tide with warnings that arrival in Canada was not an automatic ticket to stay.

The Covid-19 pandemic closed the route under emergency health measures enacted by the federal government but demand for a safe haven never dissipated. Media reports, turn themselves over to police at the border. Thousands of asylum seekers came again when those measures were lifted some 16 months ago.

Many came from Haiti, a country rocked in recent months by political and gang violence. There has also been a surge of people arriving from Latin American countries like Venezuela and Colombia, or from as

far away as Afghanistan, all dealing with their own domestic turmoil. At the same time, the Biden administration has extended some Trump-era pandemic policies like Title 42, which has been used to block land entry at the US-Mexico border for some migrants.

Migrants who spoke to the BBC in Quebec said they increasingly view the US as not a viable country for refuge, where asylum claims can often take years before they are heard, and where they feel they are not welcomed.

Joshua arrived in Montreal two days after Christmas and now shares a rented flat with other migrants as he awaits for his claim to be heard.

A native Venezuelan, he had been living in exile in Chile for five years without travel documents when he decided to make the trek up to Canada, he told the BBC.

"Other countries, they're not so friendly with irregular immigrants," said Joshua, whose name has been changed to protect his identity as someone fleeing political persecution.

But Canada, he said, has welcomed him. Behind the influx is a nearly two-decade old agreement with the US - the Safe Third Country Agreement - which requires migrants to file for asylum in the first 'safe' country they step foot in.

Pledge at COP26, which cuts total methane emissions by at least 30 per cent by 2030.

The White House also committed to an ambitious new U.S. target for cutting climate pollution 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This number is almost double what was promised in the Paris Agreement.

Speaking of which, on his very first day in office, Biden announced the United States would rejoin the Paris Agreement, an international pact to limit global warming.

Unfortunately, a fragile and potentially retreating economy is not one of the most pressing and near-term challenges facing both nations. China's resurgence has been on full display in recent months. Spy balloons illegally flying over American and Canadian airspace have made national security an equally and ominous matter the north must immediately confront.

The two nations' efforts to study and repair the potential that was successful. However, as Prime Minister Trudeau bills Canada as a global climate leader, the country lags behind a number of its G7 and G20 counterparts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2009, Canada's emissions have actually risen by 27 per cent. Biden and Trudeau have said all the right things on climate and undoubtedly they will again during their bilateral.

## Why Canada avoided a severe winter COVID wave

Three years after the pandemic began, Canada has managed to avoid a severe COVID-19 wave this winter despite a total lack of public health restrictions, a busy indoor holiday season and a rapidly mutating virus that is still very much circulating in the population.

"We are now at a point in Canada where COVID-19 activity has reached a relatively stable state," Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, said at a briefing on March 10.

"While uncertainty remains about the seasonal patterns of COVID-19, the current trend suggests we may not see any major waves in the coming months."

And new research continues to back up why: Hybrid immunity from vaccination and prior infection is holding up against hospitalizations and deaths and will likely continue to help control the severity of COVID-19 in Canada and around the world for the foreseeable future.

"It's very pleasing to see that for the first time, the weekly number of reported deaths in the past four weeks has been lower than when we first used the word pandemic three years ago."

More than 76 per cent of Canadian adults and close to 90 per cent of young adults (aged 17 to 24) are estimated to have previously had the disease as of mid-January, according to national blood donor data released by the federal government's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

High levels of infection - combined with the more than 80 per cent of Canadians who've received at least two doses of a COVID vaccine, better treatment access and less severe infections than previous strains - have led to stronger immune protection against a virus that continues to spread globally.

"The high levels of hybrid immunity are one of the major factors explaining the contained number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths this winter," said Dr. Sara Carazo, an epidemiologist and researcher with the Quebec National Institute of Public Health.

"This is explained also by the intrinsic characteristics of new circulating variants, which were not causing a more severe disease than those with a previous infection had a 90 per cent risk reduction of BA.4/5 hospitalization when combined with vaccination, compared with only about 70 per cent if they were unvaccinated and had immunity from infection alone."

But infection is not without risk - and vaccination is still the preferred route of acquiring immunity, due to the strong protection it provides against severe illness and the ongoing risk of COVID complications in vulnerable groups.

Hybrid immunity offers strongest protection. A growing body of research has consistently shown that the hybrid protection from vaccination and infection is superior to immunity from prior infection alone - meaning those who have previously been infected should still get vaccinated.

"Vaccine-induced immunity is what got us to the point of even asking the question of whether hybrid immunity is what's getting us out of the pandemic," said John Wherry, director of the Institute for Immunology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

"It doesn't look like it's really helping with transmission, but it almost certainly is adding to the overall population immunity in a way that's making [new subvariants] a lot less concerning." A Canadian study of health-care workers in Quebec published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases in January found that two doses of an mRNA vaccine and a previous Omicron infection offered substantial protection against future infection from Omicron subvariants.

"Importantly, this protection seems to have little waning over time during one year follow-up, which contrasts with the loss of effectiveness with time among persons vaccinated but not previously infected," said Carazo, the lead author of the review.

"We also observed that protection from hybrid immunity was maintained even for distant variants and subvariants compared with protection from infection alone."



Carazo's research also found that those with a previous infection had a 90 per cent risk reduction of BA.4/5 hospitalization when combined with vaccination, compared with only about 70 per cent if they were unvaccinated and had immunity from infection alone.

"It's safe to say that the relative lack of severity of the waves that we've seen here is because of immunity - it's hard to gauge anything differently than that," said Deeptha Bhattacharya, an immunologist and professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

"And obviously, given what fraction of the population has had a prior infection, you would have to think that hybrid immunity is a big part of that."

"Vaccination 'the safest way to get immunity' A new study of 613 patients published this week in Science Translational Medicine found that people who had received COVID-19 vaccine after an infection showed much stronger immune responses than those who were either only vaccinated or only infected."

"The level of protection expected from hybrid immunity is significantly higher than that afforded by vaccination only or infection only," said Thierry DeFranco, a lead author of the study and an infectious disease researcher at the University of Lyon in France. And a recent systematic review of 65 studies from 19 countries in The Lancet found that a previous COVID-19 infection reduced the risk of hospitalization and death from a reinfection by up to 88 per cent for at least 10 months - equivalent to two doses of mRNA vaccine.

"Clearly, the good news is sustained protection against severe disease," said Dr. Christopher Murray, the lead author of the review and director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"The less good news is that protection against infection alone is not as

good and wanes much more quickly, meaning that there will be continued waves of transmission even though we have a very high level of immunity from either vaccination or infection."

It's also important to note that not all immunity carries the same risk, and an infection with Omicron or one of its subvariants is much different than an infection with previous variants, such as Alpha, Beta, Delta or even the original strain, prior to vaccines.

"The safest way to get immunity is through vaccination," Murray said. "The risk you were taking was huge back in the days of Delta or even the ancestral strain, because the infection fatality rate was 10 times higher than Omicron."

South Africa, a country that saw massive amounts of hospitalization and death following severe waves of infection early in the pandemic prior to the rollout of vaccines, is also now in a much different situation with COVID-19 due to high levels of immunity in the population.

"It has been over a year that we have had our large wave of infection that translates into hospitalization," said Tulio de Oliveira, director of South Africa's Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation.

"Is that long lasting? That's the million-dollar question," he said. "But what we know is that the current immunity wall is holding very well."

Better access to antiviral treatments has helped. How well hybrid immunity continues to hold up in the population will determine how often additional booster doses should be offered, and it underscores the need to further protect elderly and immunocompromised Canadians who are less likely to have a prior infection.

Dr. Gaston De Serres, an epidemiologist at the Quebec National Institute of Public Health who researches hybrid immunity and co-authored the research with Dr. Sara Carazo, said the immunity landscape is drastically different in younger adults than elderly Canadians.

"Why it matters is because hospitalizations are, for the most part, occurring in elderly people," he said. "Having a large proportion of the younger population that has been infected helps. But the pool of individuals who are over 70 and who have not yet been infected is still quite substantial, and we may expect that future hospitalizations will, for the most part, occur in these individuals."

## Biden's Canada visit is long overdue, expert says

U.S. President Joe Biden will be making his much-anticipated visit to Canada soon. This will be his first time visiting America's northern neighbour since taking office in 2021.

Questions abound as to why President Biden is only now making the visit more than two years into his presidency. Previous presidents made the trek much sooner. The White House has not offered an explanation for the long wait but as the saying goes: better late than never. However, it is also the first time since George W. Bush, that a sitting U.S. president has been to Canada as part of a bilateral visit. Presidents Obama's and Trump's visits all coincided with multilateral or trilateral engagements. This alone makes the sojourn indeed noteworthy.

Still, while the trip is long overdue, it is timely considering the pressing issues confronting both nations.

Likewise any long-standing relationship, complications abound. Percolating just beneath the surface, spinning inflation; a nagging migrant

crisis; raging climate change, and a bellicose China are just a few of the issues that threaten this united front.

The United States is Canada's biggest trading partner, exceeding more than CAD\$1 trillion (US\$745.1 billion) in bilateral trade in goods and services in 2021. However, as the "Freedom Convoy" protest last year revealed, that robust and fruitful economic relationship can be fragile and fraught with danger on both sides.

The blockade brought auto production of major car manufacturers to its knees as the protests halted movement between the two nations. Now, out-of-control inflation, spurred by supply chain issues and exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, has global leaders on edge. Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau must now find common ground to ensure economic stability. Amid the backdrop and only adding to the growing economic uncertainty, recalcitrant House Republicans are threatening to push the U.S. economy further towards the edge of the

deb-celling cliff. No doubt, this game of political chicken being played in Washington could very well send Canada's entire economy spiralling into the abyss if a deal is not reached by the summer.

Unfortunately, a fragile and potentially retreating economy is not one of the most pressing and near-term challenges facing both nations. China's resurgence has been on full display in recent months. Spy balloons illegally flying over American and Canadian airspace have made national security an equally and ominous matter the north must immediately confront.

The two nations' efforts to study and repair the potential that was successful. However, as Prime Minister Trudeau bills Canada as a global climate leader, the country lags behind a number of its G7 and G20 counterparts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2009, Canada's emissions have actually risen by 27 per cent. Biden and Trudeau have said all the right things on climate and undoubtedly they will again during their bilateral.

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