Transportation Connects Alberta

Navigating Uncertainty

Bryce Stewart, Deputy Minister
Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC)

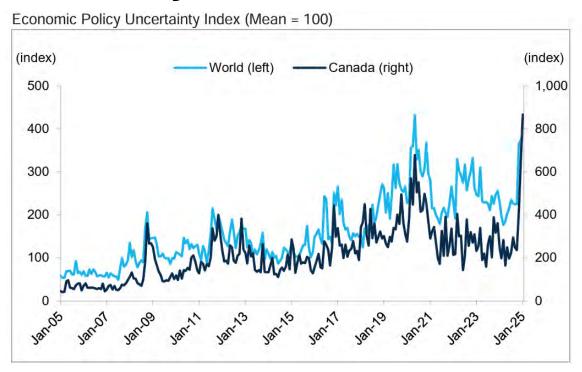


The Challenge

- Longstanding issues
 - Market access/diversification
 - Competitiveness
 - Volatile oil prices and cyclical economy
- Near-term headwinds
 - Pressure on public services as more people move to Alberta
 - Potential U.S. tariffs and retaliatory measures



The Uncertainty



Included in Alberta Budget 2025 Fiscal Plan from PolicyUncertainity.com and Haver Analytics; Canada's News-Based Policy Uncertainty Index is based on news articles from the Canadian Newswire and from five Canadian newspapers. Each paper-specific series is normalized to standard deviation 1 prior to 2011 and then summed. The series is normalized to mean 100 prior to 2011.

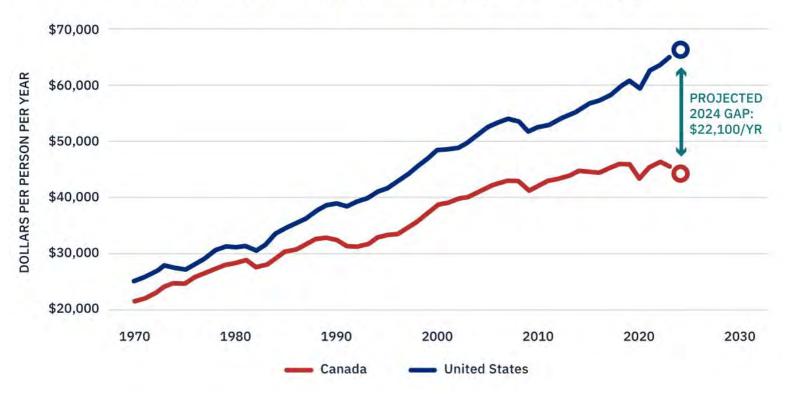


The Opportunity

- Canada has a well-documented productivity challenge relative to global peers and especially the United States
- Productivity growth is about generating more output (goods and services) with the same or fewer inputs (labour and capital)
- Strong productivity growth is the foundation of a competitive economy and a rising standard of living
- From a transportation perspective, productivity growth means being able to move people and goods more easily within cities, the province and the country



Real GDP per Capita (PPP, 2015), 1970-2024 (F)



Trevor Tombe: The Great Divergence: Canada's economic gap with the U.S. reaches a new record, https://thehub.ca/2024/09/05/trevor-tombe-the-great-divergence-canadas-economic-gap-with-the-u-s-reaches-a-new-record/

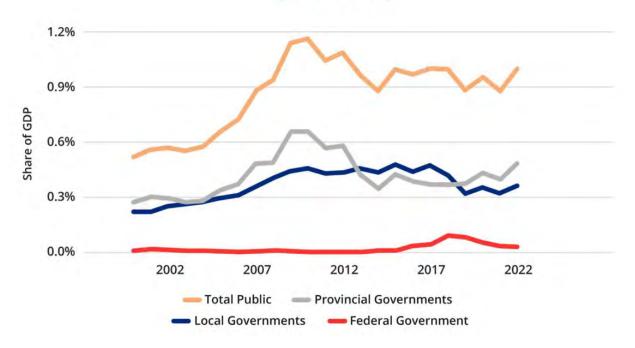


Investment

- Provincial funding
 - Target corridors with significant economic activity and strategic long-term importance
 - Balance maintenance and rehabilitation with green field development
 - Providing stable long-term funding
- Federal funding for trade-enabling infrastructure
 - Transportation infrastructure as a driver of productivity rather than a drain on public coffers
 - A priority along with commitments to fund transit



Public Spending on Transportation Infrastructure (% of GDP)



Trevor Tombe: Actually, Minister Guilbeault, Canada needs more roads, rail, and all of the above, https://thehub.ca/2024/02/22/trevor-tombe-canada-needs-more-roads-rail-and-all-of-the-above/



Regulatory Streamlining

- Regulatory regimes that are fit for purpose
- Economic corridors
- Interprovincial trade

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Industry Productivity

What we heard

- More visibility on RFPs and contract tenders and tracking of timelines, standardized criteria, and accountability metrics.
- Delays in the RFP and tender processes impact industry efficiency and project timelines.
- More information on projects ensures the best pricing by industry.

What we are doing

- Placing TEC procurement teams closer to the business areas that deliver the projects.
- Sharing the three-month tender plan with industry with clear process and timelines on decisions around designs, standards, and specifications.
- Completion of design and tender packages in accordance with the published Capital Plan, with tenders that are construction ready, and not rife with follow-up or gaps which industry cannot effectively price.
- Risk mitigation through pre-tender activities including: enhanced geotechnical investigations; and advanced communication with utility companies to enable them to plan and coordinate their utility work prior to the commencement of projects.

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Thank-you



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