

All Questions submitted to Prime Minister Stephen Harper

(Questions were edited and consolidated by David Biette, director of the Wilson Center's Canada Institute, and submitted to Wilson Center President Jane Harman)

- 1) Mr. Prime Minister, What happened to the Leafs?
- 2) The world is negotiating a treaty on mercury. Will Canada support the phase out of dental amalgam and other major product sources of mercury?
- 3) What should Canada's/United States' position be with respect to the current regimes in Russia, Ukraine? (eg. Tymoshenko – political incarceration)
- 4) Thank you for your support of the 9/11 families and helping pass the anti-terrorism legislation. How will you support our national day of remembrance this September and going forward? Thank you for remembering Ralph and the 23 others lost 10 years ago.
- 5) As a Canadian citizen, I am concerned about Canada's continued sovereignty in the Arctic. Can you please address this in light of energy concerns expressed to the U.S.? Merci!
- 6) Can you wait for 10 minutes after the talk to take pictures with Canadian students?
- 7) Any thought of Canada enacting similar programs as the USA's DARPA or ARPA-E Programs?
- 8) Dear Mr. Harper, in the 2012 Canadian Government budget it was announced that Katimavik which began in 1977 and is a program devoted to cultural discovery and civic engagement among Canadian youth would be cut. Do you, Mr. Harper, have a specific plan to help students like me, who have been deprived for the opportunity to participate in federal funded civic engagement projects?
- 9) Given your commitment to expanding Canada's trade and cooperation opportunities in a complex, more inter-dependent world – why are you downsizing the ministry of foreign affairs?
- 10) As Canada and United States are both major exporters of agricultural products, should we look at negotiating bilateral as partners, with major importers like China, rather than each of us negotiating on our own?
- 11) What do you see as the major geopolitical challenges on the Canadian Arctic over the next decade?
- 12) Are you talking to President Obama about ensuring that Canadian hydropower is treated the same as domestic hydro in America's clean energy future? (current clean energy standard proposals don't treat it the same)

- 13) It has been in the news lately that some natural gas wells are leaking small but significant amounts of methane gas – a worse atmospheric pollution than carbon dioxide. Any comments regarding solutions?
- 14) What will be Canada's roll in the OAS in the next decade?
- 15) Canada's abdication of leadership on climate change is a concern to many. Do you see a re-emergence of Canada in this area?
- 16) Why were you not able to harmonize regulations on "jelly beans"? Why do you think you can gain greater regulatory harmonization if you can't do it on jellybeans on Cheerios?
- 17) How does Canada envision an end game in Afghanistan? What role will Canada plan after 2014?
- 18) Since the U.S. Congress is unlikely to act soon on a comprehensive national plan to meet its announced goals for reduction for global warming grows, why doesn't Canada adopt its own, based on your national as well as bicontinental and world interest?
- 19) What are you doing to fund small high tech companies and to bring ideas from the universities to the market?
- 20) What will Canada's national gas vehicle future look like? (obstacles/benefits)
- 21) What is Canada's view on the possibility of drones over North America?
- 22) What is Canada prepared to concede/negotiate to join TPP? What are the next steps for joining TPP? Will it happen this year?
- 23) What is Canada's position towards the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks currently underway? Overall, how does Canada perceive the Asia-Pacific region and in particular China?
- 24) Could you comment on Canada's intentions with respect to the Transpacific Partnership?
- 25) What is a Canadian's—a conservative Canadian's—perspective on the ongoing U.S. battle over health care reform? As the head of a country with longstanding universal coverage—do you see that a budget will burden or boon?
- 26) What role should hydro play in Canadian clean energy exports to the U.S.?
- 27) How does Canada see its role in strengthening democracy and respect for human rights in the Americas and beyond?
- 28) Prime Minister, what in your experience is the greatest myth people hold about Canada and Canadians?
- 29) What can the international community expect from Canada during its chairmanship of the Arctic Council?

- 30) How have Canadian immigration policies helped to attract highly-skilled labor?
- 31) Can you imagine a time when we could agree to an open border regime, such as the EU's Schengen Agreement?
- 32) What is the shared North American agenda? Which issues are best addressed trilaterally vs. bilaterally?
- 33) When will Canada join the TPP?
- 34) Can we do more on each side of the border, like using biometrics, to allow good people to cross faster and easier?
- 35) PM Harper—the new bridge between Windsor and Detroit will help make our border seamless. Why not forge an agreement with President Obama and go around the Michigan legislature?
- 36) To create a seamless North American market, one very important step would be to eliminate “rules of origin” by a common external tariff. Would you propose or support this proposal?
- 37) Did you discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership w/ Presidents Obama and Calderón? What are the prospects that Canada will join the negotiations?
- 38) What's the role of Canada in global affairs in 2022?
- 39) Please discuss how Canada's trade relationship may positively or negatively impact Canada's trade relationship with the USA. Any thoughts on the Keystone pipeline issue and how it impacts Canada?
- 40) When will Canada and the United States decide to form a customs union? We need it and the time is right.
- 41) A primary concern of Americans about the Keystone XL pipeline is that the increase in oil sands production it will foster significantly increase carbon dioxide pollution. Why not offset the expected emissions increase with equal reductions elsewhere? I was in Fort McMurray last week and the companies we met with are not doing so.
- 42) As a U.S. researcher who has active collaborations with scientists in Environment Canada, I have had recent phone calls to my colleagues there answered with the reply, “We have been told not to talk to people outside Environment Canada”. My own interest is in air quality related program that I understand is facing cuts. I know Mr. Kent, the Environment Minister, has informed the House that no such “gag order” exists. Can you assure your scientists at Environment Canada that they can have free and unfettered access to their scientific colleagues outside Environment Canada to explain which programs will continue and which won't?
- 43) Who will win the Stanley cup?