

/ Memorandum

From: Sussex Strategy Group

Date: May 22, 2025

Re: Prime Minister Mark Carney Releases Mandate Letter to Map Out Government Priorities

On May 21, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney officially released a singular mandate letter to map out the federal government's priorities following last week's Cabinet appointments.

Prime Minister Carney's Priorities

Prime Minister Carney's first, and at this moment, only, mandate letter provides context to the situation currently facing Canada, identifying it as a "Generational Challenge." This includes the significant issues that this new Liberal government will be expected to address, such as affordability, domestic productivity, infrastructure, and sovereignty.

In addressing these concerns, among others, the mandate letter lays out the following seven priorities that Prime Minister Carney's government intends to focus on:

1. Establishing a new economic and security relationship with the United States and strengthening our collaboration with reliable trading partners and allies around the world.
2. Building one Canadian economy by removing barriers to interprovincial trade and identifying and expediting nation-building projects that will connect and transform our country.
3. Bringing down costs for Canadians and helping them to get ahead.
4. Making housing more affordable by unleashing the power of public-private cooperation, catalysing a modern housing industry, and creating new careers in the skilled trades.
5. Protecting Canadian sovereignty and keeping Canadians safe by strengthening the Canadian Armed Forces, securing our borders, and reinforcing law enforcement.
6. Attracting the best talent in the world to help build our economy, while returning our overall immigration rates to sustainable levels.
7. Spending less on government operations so that Canadians can invest more in the people and businesses that will build the strongest economy in the G7.

In addition to these priorities, the mandate letter also ensures a particular focus on the concept of partnership across the federal government, including Cabinet, Parliamentarians, and the federal

public service, as well as with the provinces and territories, and Indigenous Peoples. This echoes Prime Minister Carney's emphasis on unifying Canada, both in terms of the economy, labour, and interprovincial trade, and working with all levels of government to determine the needs of each province and territory.

The Significance of One Mandate Letter

While one mandate letter demonstrates a common purpose for this new government, it also marks a departure from the previous Liberal government, which saw each minister receive their own mandate letter to communicate the goals of their individual portfolios and how they fit into the government's overarching objectives.

While there is no news on specific priorities for each Minister in Prime Minister Carney's Cabinet, the mandate letter that has been released does give direction to Ministers to identify their contributions to the priorities laid out and key goals that fall within their portfolios.

This could present opportunities to engage with the federal government to not only advocate within the bounds of the mandate letter but also form productive partnerships with relevant offices to provide perspective on how those Ministers can best assist organizations, industries and sectors within Canada.