# Governor Kemp aims to strengthen Georgia-Canada trade ties amid tariff tensions



Georgia Governor Brian Kemp recently embarked on a three-day trade mission to Canada, seeking to bolster economic ties between the Peach State and its northern neighbour. This visit comes amid a backdrop of escalating trade tensions, notably the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on Canadian goods, reaching a new peak with recent increases on steel and aluminium imports. The trade mission occurs as part of the Southeast U.S.-Canadian Provinces Alliance conference in Saint John, New Brunswick, held from June 8 to 10.

At the conference, which aims to strengthen trade and investment partnerships founded in 2007, Kemp will be accompanied by his wife, First Lady Marty Kemp, and state Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson. Despite the burgeoning challenges posed by tariffs, which include a retaliatory stance from Canada, this event represents a critical opportunity for Georgia to reaffirm its commitment to fostering cross-border business relations. In 2022, Canada ranked as Georgia’s fifth-largest trading partner, with total trade amounting to an impressive $13.9 billion, including $7.4 billion in exports from Georgia.

Trade discussions are particularly pertinent given the recent tumult in U.S.-Canada relations. Governor Kemp’s visit is not only a strategic move to fortify business networks but also a response to the complexities introduced by tariffs that began during Trump’s term, ranging from 25% on various Canadian goods to a recently enforced doubling on steel and aluminum. The implications of this trade friction have been significant, contributing to a less predictable trade environment. Kemp’s participation signals an intent to navigate these uncertainties while leveraging the existing frameworks established by the SEUS-CP Alliance.

The conference will focus on sectors critical to both regions, likely including transportation, logistics, and the growing field of technology. Georgia has previously hosted the SEUS-CP Alliance in Savannah, reflecting its ongoing commitment to partnership and collaboration. Past conferences have seen fruitful exchanges on various industries, including food and beverage as well as advancements in electric vehicle manufacturing. The 2022 conference, for instance, highlighted the role of Canada in supplying key materials such as nickel for U.S.-made electric vehicles, showcasing shared interests in sustainable industry practices.

Furthermore, in a gesture of goodwill amidst these trade challenges, the Georgia Forestry Commission has offered resources to assist in battling ongoing wildfires in central and western Canada, an effort that reinforces the collaborative spirit of the SEUS-CP Alliance. As political leaders and business officials convene, Kemp's mission may serve not only to mitigate the impacts of tariffs but also to reaffirm the importance of strategic economic alliances between the U.S. and Canada in an increasingly interconnected market.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://eu.onlineathens.com/story/news/politics/state/2025/06/08/gov-brian-kemp-traveling-to-canada-for-trade-conference/84072793007/), [[6]](https://www.globalatlanta.com/canada-conference-in-savannah-brings-deals-renewed-focus-on-resiliency-through-trade-ties/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://eu.onlineathens.com/story/news/politics/state/2025/06/08/gov-brian-kemp-traveling-to-canada-for-trade-conference/84072793007/), [[2]](https://georgia.org/press-release/georgia-host-southeast-us-canadian-provinces-seus-cp-trade-investment-conference), [[5]](https://georgia.org/seus-cp-2022)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://georgia.org/newsroom/press-releases/governor-perdue-announces-seus-canadian-provinces-conference-be-held-savannah), [[4]](https://georgia.org/newsroom/press-releases/governor-perdue-co-host-second-annual-southeastern-united-statescanadian-provinces-alliance-conference)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://eu.onlineathens.com/story/news/politics/state/2025/06/08/gov-brian-kemp-traveling-to-canada-for-trade-conference/84072793007/), [[6]](https://www.globalatlanta.com/canada-conference-in-savannah-brings-deals-renewed-focus-on-resiliency-through-trade-ties/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://eu.onlineathens.com/story/news/politics/state/2025/06/08/gov-brian-kemp-traveling-to-canada-for-trade-conference/84072793007/), [[2]](https://georgia.org/press-release/georgia-host-southeast-us-canadian-provinces-seus-cp-trade-investment-conference)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://eu.onlineathens.com/story/news/politics/state/2025/06/08/gov-brian-kemp-traveling-to-canada-for-trade-conference/84072793007/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://georgia.org/press-release/georgia-host-southeast-us-canadian-provinces-seus-cp-trade-investment-conference> - In May 2022, the Georgia Department of Economic Development announced that Georgia would host the 2022 Southeast U.S.-Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Conference in Savannah from June 19-21, 2022. This marked the second time Georgia hosted the event, following the inaugural conference in 2008. The SEUS-CP Alliance, established in 2007, aims to enhance trade and investment, promote business partnerships, and encourage technological exchanges between Southeastern U.S. states and Canadian provinces. The 2022 conference focused on sectors such as Transportation and Logistics, and Food and Beverage, offering strategic procurement and partnership opportunities for small businesses.
3. <https://georgia.org/newsroom/press-releases/governor-perdue-announces-seus-canadian-provinces-conference-be-held-savannah> - In June 2008, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue announced the inaugural SEUS-Canadian Provinces Alliance conference to be held in Savannah. The alliance, established in 2007, includes six Southeastern U.S. states and seven Canadian provinces, aiming to promote trade, investment, tourism, educational, and friendship ties between the regions. The conference was co-chaired by Governor Perdue and Premier Jean Charest of Québec, with the goal of enhancing commercial exchanges and fostering two-way investment and technological exchanges between the member states and provinces.
4. <https://georgia.org/newsroom/press-releases/governor-perdue-co-host-second-annual-southeastern-united-statescanadian-provinces-alliance-conference> - In July 2009, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue co-hosted the second annual Southeastern United States–Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The conference aimed to enhance commercial exchanges, promote two-way investment, and encourage technological and scientific exchanges between the member states and provinces. Approximately 200 delegates from across the Southeast and Canada attended, focusing on sectors such as energy, green economic development, and ocean technology, with numerous networking opportunities for businesses and organizations.
5. <https://georgia.org/seus-cp-2022> - The 2022 SEUS-CP Conference, held from June 19–21, 2022, in Savannah, Georgia, brought together businesses and economic development leaders from across the Alliance. The conference featured a robust B2B program facilitated by Market Access International, connecting chief procurement officials from globally recognized companies with potential suppliers. The event focused on two key industry sectors: Transportation & Logistics, and Food & Beverage, aiming to strengthen trade and investment ties between Southeastern U.S. states and Canadian provinces.
6. <https://www.globalatlanta.com/canada-conference-in-savannah-brings-deals-renewed-focus-on-resiliency-through-trade-ties/> - The SEUS-CP conference in Savannah highlighted the importance of trade ties between Georgia and Canada, focusing on sectors like electric vehicle manufacturing. Discussions included the supply of nickel from Newfoundland and Labrador for U.S.-made Tesla electric cars, emphasizing the potential for low-carbon-footprint nickel refining. The conference also showcased Newfoundland's advancements in tourism and technology, exemplified by Nasdaq's acquisition of Verafin, a cybersecurity company based in the province.
7. <https://georgia.org/newsroom/press-releases/deal-and-georgia-delegation-to-expand-economic-ties-with-canada> - In June 2011, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal led a delegation to Canada to attend the Southeastern U.S. - Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) trade conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The conference aimed to enhance commercial exchanges, promote two-way investment, and encourage technological and scientific innovation between the member states and provinces. The event focused on industries including advanced manufacturing, information and communication technologies, and clean tech sectors, with over 300 U.S. and Canadian business and government leaders in attendance.