

# Ottawa's Political Reset: Trudeau Steps Down, Parliament Prorogued

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his intention to resign as Prime Minister and Leader of the Liberal Party, effective once a new leader is selected. The Liberal Party's National Board of Directors must meet by February 2nd to establish a leadership contest process, appoint an interim leader if needed, and set the date for a leadership vote. Trudeau will remain in office until his successor is chosen.

To enable a smooth leadership transition and prevent a confidence vote that could bring down the government, Trudeau has asked Governor General Mary Simon to prorogue Parliament until March 24th, which has been granted. This decision effectively pauses parliamentary business and resets the legislative agenda.

## What Prorogation Means

- 1. Legislative Impacts:**
  - All government-sponsored bills still in progress are terminated ("die on the Order Paper"). They must be reintroduced in the next session and require opposition cooperation to advance quickly.
  - Legislation passed but not yet proclaimed into force remains valid and can be enacted.
  - Private Members' Bills will continue from their current stage when Parliament resumes.
  - Regulatory processes, including creating or amending regulations, remain unaffected during prorogation.
- 2. Parliamentary Pause:**
  - Parliamentarians will not return to work until March 24th, when a new session begins with a Speech from the Throne outlining the government's updated priorities.
  - This pause delays any confidence vote, enabling the Liberal Party to complete its leadership race without risking an early election.

## What Comes Next

1. **Leadership Contest:**
  - The Liberal Party will initiate its leadership selection process, with high-profile candidates such as Chrystia Freeland, Dominic LeBlanc, Mark Carney, and others expected to declare their candidacy.
  - The new leader will also become Canada's next Prime Minister, tasked with setting the party's direction and leading the government into the next session of Parliament.
2. **Potential Election:**
  - While the House is expected to resume on March 24th, the new Prime Minister could dissolve Parliament and call an election instead.
  - Federal bureaucrats are preparing for this possibility, with election readiness work accelerating.
3. **Federal Budget and Funding:**
  - A Spring budget is uncertain. If the government does not produce one immediately after prorogation, it will fall to a new government following an election.
  - The government must pass a supply bill by March 31st to secure funding for the next fiscal year. Failure to do so could halt non-essential services.
4. **Key Government Operations:**
  - Federal priorities, such as U.S.-Canada trade negotiations will continue under Trudeau's leadership until his successor takes office.

When Parliament resumes on March 24th, a new Liberal leader and Prime Minister could be in place, with an updated government agenda laid out in the Speech from the Throne. The months ahead will determine not only the next leader of the Liberal Party but also the direction of Canada's political future. The CBAA is active and preparing for the various possibilities. Stay tuned for more!