

## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, October 1, 2021 5:43 PM  
**To:** Morrison, David; Patrick.Wittmann@pco.bco.gc.ca; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Lauzon@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update - Friday, October 1st

*Sent of Behalf of Weldon Epp - OPD*

### Key developments since Friday, September 24, 2021

#### CONSULAR

- On September 25, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were released by Chinese authorities and returned to Canada after being arbitrarily detained for 1020 days.

#### PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS NIL

#### CANADA-CHINA

#### Diplomatic NIL

#### Commercial

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- **FOREIGN STUDENTS:** The latest IRCC data revealed that 28,640 study permits were issued to Chinese citizens from January-July 2021, an increase of 6% compared with the same period last year. Despite student numbers showing growth for the first time in over a year, they remain below pre-COVID levels (40 % less than the same period in 2019). Currently, Chinese international students in Canada represent 15% of the total of international students with permits of six months or greater, down from 22.6% in 2020. On the other hand, the number of study permits issued to Hong Kong citizens continues to show significant growth. From January-July 2021, 2,350 permits were issued, representing an increase of 177% compared to the same period last year, and an increase of 101% compared to 2019. The number of Taiwanese students coming to Canada remains low, however, with 980 permits issued, a decrease of 10.8% for January-July 2021, compared to the same period in 2020.
- **TOURISM:** Tourism statistics released on September 23 show that from **January-July 2021**, the number of Mainland Chinese tourists coming to Canada dropped by almost 88% compared to the same period in 2020, while tourists coming from Hong Kong dropped by 86.5%, and tourists from Taiwan dropped by 92.8%. Between **June and July 2021**, tourist numbers for China grew by 73.4% (from 1982 to 3436) and by 162% for Hong Kong (from 797 to 2088); in comparison, those from Taiwan increased only 7.9% for the same period (from 291 to 314).

#### HONG KONG

- **NATIONAL SECURITY LAW:** On September 29, the Hong Kong government announced that it would be pushing through its own national security legislation to “fill gaps” around the Beijing-imposed law. According to Radio

Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Hong Kong's Secretary for Security, Chris Tang, said the new law would be based on the initial draft proposed in 2003, which was shelved after mass protests, and also take into account the circumstances since the 2019 pro-democracy protests.

- **RTHK GUIDELINES:** On September 29, the Hong Kong Free Press reported on new editorial guidelines of RTHK, warning its staff to be careful when contacting foreign governments or political organizations.

## **TAIWAN**

- **AIRCRAFT INCURSION:** On October 1, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) sent 25 fighter jets into Taiwan's airspace on China's National Day. Last week, the PLA flew 24 fighter jets toward Taiwan after it announced it would apply to join the CPTPP.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA**

- **CHINA NATIONAL DAY:** On October 1, China celebrates the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. This date also marks the start of "Golden Week", a government-sanctioned holiday extending from October 1-7.
- **SHELLENBERG:** On October 1, Tom Blackwell, a journalist from Postmedia, noted that Robert Schellenberg remains on death row, despite the "decision to arbitrarily impose and uphold the death penalty" following Meng Wanzhou's arrest. Wei Cui, a professor at UBC, said that clemency for Mr. Schellenberg may not happen without the involvement of the White House.
- **EVERGRANDE:** On September 30, Evergrande made a 10% repayment on money owed to investors who bought its high-yielding investment products.
- **TWO MICHAELS/ MENG:** On September 29, Jeremy Kinsman, a former Canadian diplomat, wrote a comment piece in Policy Magazine, commending the background diplomatic effort in securing the freedom of the two Michaels, and noted that the "cumulative erosion of global public opinion can have a real effect on multiple fronts".
- On September 28, the Toronto Star wrote that Canada, the U.S., and China deny that there was a deal to free the two Canadian detainees in return for the release of Meng Wanzhou. The U.S. and Canada insist that the decision to release the two men was reached by the Chinese authorities, while China insists the two Michaels sought bail for medical reasons.
  - o On September 29, Le Devoir reported on remarks by the Director-General of the Canada-China Business Council, Sarah Kutulakos, in which she said the release of the two Michaels "opens the door to rebuilding good relationships" with China.
  - o On September 28, CBC reported on the remarks by the President of the Canola Council of Canada, in which he said he hopes that the return of the two Michaels will lead to an environment where the trade issue can be settled. "The announcement last week, I think, really provides hope that there's a new environment there and that ... relationships, if you like, are improving that would allow that kind of discussion to continue to take place", Jim Everson said.
  - o On September 28, James Griffiths of the Globe and Mail wrote that while the two Michaels have returned, 115 Canadians remain imprisoned in China. At least four face the death penalty, and one has not been heard from for more than a decade, having been denied access to consular officials and cut off from his family. For those Canadians, experts doubt Ottawa has the leverage or the willingness to pressure Beijing on their behalf.
  - o On September 27, the PRC MFA made several comments on the Meng case. The spokesperson attributed the return of Meng to the "unremitting efforts of the Chinese government", which "fully proves that a strong China under the leadership of the CPC will always have the back of every single Chinese citizen", while also saying that the "Canadian side should not have done the dirty work for the U.S.", and called on Canada to "draw lessons and act in ways that serve its own interests". The spokesperson also stated that the two Michaels confessed to their crimes and were released on bail for medical reasons under the guarantee of the Canadian Ambassador.
  - o On September 27, the Canadian Press reported that President Biden pressed Xi Jinping to release Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor during a September 9 phone call.

- On September 26, a Global Times article purported that “as the two Canadians touched down in Canada, the Canadian intelligence eagerly welcomed them, which proved their identities and activities of spies are not made up by China”.
- On September 26, Foreign Minister Marc Garneau was interviewed by CBC on the release of the two Michaels. When asked about Canada's foreign policy with China going forward, Garneau said, “We will coexist, we will compete, we will cooperate in areas where we need to cooperate, such as climate change. And we will challenge China, whether it's on human rights, or whether it's on arbitrary detention, when appropriate”.
- **ELECTION INTERFERENCE:** On September 29, public policy commentator Tasha Kheiriddin wrote an op-ed in the National Post raising the issue of possible China interference in the recent federal elections, and suggested that a full investigation be conducted. She cites the example of several Conservative candidates, three of whom lost their election in regions with a high Chinese Canadian concentration, whose campaigns may have been influenced by China using several media tools such as WeChat.
- **INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS:** On September 29, a PRC spokesperson was asked to comment on China, Belarus, the DPRK and Venezuela's videoconference presented on the sidelines of the 48<sup>th</sup> the UN Human Rights Council on the “violation of indigenous people's human rights” by the U.S., Canada, and Australia. The spokesperson that the three countries should “reflect upon themselves, thoroughly investigate the history of indigenous residential schools”, and called on the international community to “condemn their gross violations of indigenous people's human rights”.
- **HUAWEI BAN:** On September 28, PM Trudeau said that his government is “look[ing] forward to sharing a decision” on whether to ban Huawei Technologies from Canada's 5G wireless network rollout “in the coming weeks”.
- **HUSEYIN CELIL:** On September 28, the Canadian Press published an interview with Kamila Telendibaeva, wife of Huseyin Celil. Telendibaeva said that while she was happy to see the release of the two Michaels, her “blood was boiling” as she felt the Liberal government is ignoring Huseyin Celil's case, and wants to see a harder push to secure his release.
  - On September 26, Haroon Siddiqui, a journalist, wrote an opinion piece in the Toronto Star, arguing that Canada should focus on bringing Huseyin Celil home following the return of the Two Michaels. Siddiqui notes the silence from the leaders of the federal parties on his detention, and highlights the fact that he was not born in Canada.
- **WHO PROBE:** On September 28, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom spoke at a Geneva-based event on trade and COVID-19, where he called on all countries, including China, to collaborate in the second phase of a probe into the origins of the coronavirus.
- **CHINA POWER CUTS:** On September 28, the National Observer reported that China's power cuts to meet new energy use targets could lead to global goods shortages. Economists and an environmental group say manufacturers used up this year's quota faster than planned as export demand rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **CANADA MILITARY:** On September 28, Diane Francis of the National Post wrote an op-ed, saying that Canada's national defense has been neglected for a long time, much of it since the Liberals came to power. A lack of investment and the more visible presence of Russia and China in the Arctic are factors that should give decision-makers reasons to increase our military capabilities, and contrasts Australia's increasing military capabilities with its latest nuclear submarine deal.
- **GARNEAU UNGA:** On September 27, Foreign Minister Garneau spoke at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Garneau thanked international allies for their supporting Canada on the cases of the two Michaels, said that Canada applied both Canadian and international law in response to the U.S. request for extradition of Meng, and that the two Michaels paid a “heavy price” for Canada's commitment to the rule of law. In China's right of reply, Liu Yang, the representative for China's UN mission responded by saying that Meng's case is “completely different” to those of the Canadian men, accusing the U.S. and Canada of arbitrarily detaining Meng. “We hope that Canada can face up to the facts squarely, correct their mistakes and draw lessons from what happened so that they could not make further mistakes,” Liu added.

**Reminder!** For an evergreen link to upcoming events/actions of relevance, please see the [Canada-China forward calendar on GCPedia](#)

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## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca on behalf of Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, October 8, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** Morrison, David; Patrick.Wittmann@pco.bco.gc.ca; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Lauzon@international.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Marie-Louise.Hannan@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update - Friday, October 8, 2021

*Sent of Behalf of Weldon Epp - OPD*

### Key developments since Friday, October 1, 2021

#### CONSULAR

- [REDACTED]

#### PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS NIL

#### CANADA-CHINA

##### Diplomatic

- On October 5, OPB/Chen spoke with PRC Political Counsellor Hu Lihua at Hu's request. They discussed [REDACTED]
- On October 7, OPD/Weldon Epp spoke with PRC chargé d'affaires ad interim Lan Heping at Lan's request. [REDACTED]

#### Commercial NIL

#### HONG KONG

- **CHIEF EXECUTIVE POLICY ADDRESS:** On October 6, Chief Executive Carrie Lam delivered a policy address where she outlined plans to build new railway lines with Mainland China, aimed at boosting the economy in the north, and furthering integration with Shenzhen. Democratic Party Chairman Lo Kin-hei criticized her speech for focusing on integration with China, while "ignoring Hong Kong people's pain and worries". Lam's address also pushed for the implementation of Article 23, and criminalizing insults to police.

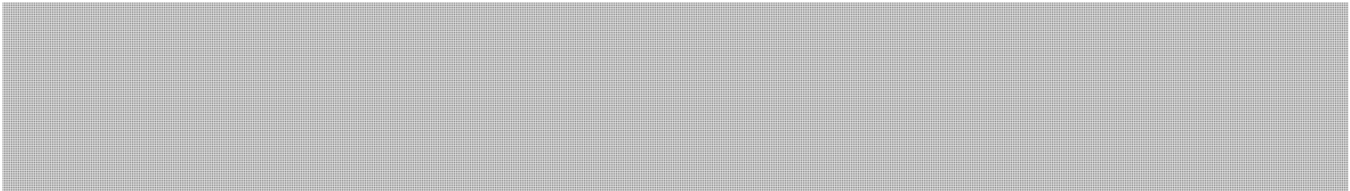
#### TAIWAN

- **U.S. SPECIAL OPS:** On October 7, when asked about the U.S. Special Operations force training in Taiwan, the PRC MFA called on the U.S. to “abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, and stop arms sales to and military ties with Taiwan”.
  - o On October 7, it was reported that a group of two-dozen U.S. special forces soldiers had been operating in Taiwan for a few months.
- **FRENCH SENATOR VISIT:** On October 6, a group of French senators arrived in Taiwan for a five-day visit, following PLA aircraft incursions into Taiwan’s ADIZ. The group, led by senator Alain Richard, will meet with President Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwanese economic and health officials and the Mainland Affairs Council.
- **BIDEN XI TALK:** On October 5, U.S. President Biden spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping about Taiwan. They agreed to abide by the “Taiwan agreement”, a formulation that has caused some confusion among China watchers, and may have been unintended.
- **JAPAN TAIWAN:** On October 5, Japan's government signaled a more assertive position on the PRC’s behaviour towards Taiwan, with Foreign Minister Motegi stating that, “instead of simply monitoring the situation, we hope to weigh the various possible scenarios that may arise to consider what options we have, as well as the preparations we must make”.

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE:** On October 8, the CBC reported on joint naval exercises off Okinawa this past weekend, in a demonstration of solidarity and of how western allies can work seamlessly together, according to Royal Navy Commodore Steve Moorhouse. Countries who took part were the UK., the U.S, Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, and New Zealand.
- **CANADIAN INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES:** On October 8, Diane Francis wrote in the National Post that Canada is failing in security and intelligence, especially in the face of China, and proposes that the country adopt a system like the Australian Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme, so that Canada can determine if people are speaking out in ways that are consistent with the interests of China. Francis concludes that Canadians need to know why Canada would break its own security by awarding contracts to Chinese firms like NucTech.
- **CIA CHINA MISSION CENTER:** On October 7, the CIA announced that it is creating a new centre aimed at countering China’s influence. The new office will focus on gathering intelligence on China and counter-espionage operations.
- **CPTPP:** On October 6, Kristen Hopewell, the Canada Research Chair in Global Policy at UBC, wrote in the Hill Times that Canada must oppose China's entry into the CPTPP. According to Hopewell, the recent actions of China on human rights should not allow into join. She cites several examples, including the arbitrary detention of the two Michaels, and also China's difficult relationship with Australia and other countries, both politically and economically.
  - o On October 6, Jesse Snyder wrote in the National Post that years of neglect towards Taiwan risks jeopardizing the latter's chances of being admitted to the CPTPP
  - o On October 5, the National Post reported on Canada’s position on China’s ascension to the CPTPP. A spokesperson for MINT said Canada is aware of China's desire to join the CPTPP, but will only be permitted entry if it meets the "high standard" required by member countries.
  - o On October 5, David Kilgour and David Matas argued in the Toronto Sun that the CPTPP can do without the membership of China in its ranks. They argue China’s actions against CPTPP member countries and regions such as Canada, Japan, India, the South China Sea and others will not facilitate its accession to the pact.

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- **HUAWEI:** On October 6, Licia Corbella wrote in the National Post that allowing Huawei into Canada’s 5G network would put the security of every Canadian’s information at risk. Corbella discussed the telecom’s entanglement

- with the Communist regime, as exposed by the arbitrary detentions of the two Michaels and in retaliation for Meng Wanzhou. She argues that Huawei is only able to undercut their competition because of subsidies given by the Chinese government.
- **CANADIAN POLICY:** On October 5, the Kitchener Waterloo Record editorial board wrote that Canada needs to be cautious in the way it cooperates with China on mutual interests, but take firmer actions. It suggested banning of Huawei from 5G infrastructure, and pushing for a boycott of the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2022.
    - o On October 1, Guy Saint-Jacques, former Canadian Ambassador to China, wrote in the Globe and Mail that Canada's China policy must consider "the perspectives of security, trade, and co-operation", and that Canada must call out China when it does not meet its obligations under international treaties. Mechanisms should be put in place to prevent future hostage taking. He proposes triggering common responses with countries that have signed the ADI such as sanctions and declarations. Canada should ban Huawei both for security reasons and to be aligned with the U.S. To prevent China from using trade to punish others, Canada should press upon the U.S. to make the WTO functional again by allowing arbiters on panels.
  - **AUKUS:** On October 4, Julian Spencer-Churchill, Associate Professor, International Relations at Concordia University, published an op-ed in the Hill Times, saying that AUKUS is a necessary alliance to counter the geopolitical and military ambitions of states like China. Its creation could even have the effect of discouraging China from acting militarily in the Indo-Pacific region. He cites several disastrous events in history that have taken place because an AUKUS-type alliance was created either late or not at all.
    - o On October 4, Jeffrey F. Collins, an Assistant Professor, Political Science at UPEI, wrote that Canada must review its submarine capabilities. Following the fall of Kabul and the creation of AUKUS, Collin suggests that Canada must follow the example of Australia. The author adds that the decision of the federal government in July 2021 to start a "Canadian submarine patrol project" is a positive step ahead. Time is running out and Canada must act quickly, according to Collins.
  - **XINJIANG CAMPS:** On October 4, CNN interviewed a former Chinese policeman who allegedly worked in a Xinjiang internment camp. The officer, identified by his surname Jiang, said every new detainee was beaten during their initial interrogation to extract a "confession". They were often subject to abuse, such as China's infamous "tiger chair" which straps a subject's hands and feet to a chair sometimes for days, as well as waterboarding, sleep deprivation and hanging from ceilings. Jiang said he and his colleagues would "kick them, beat them (until they're) bruised and swollen" and "until they kneel on the floor crying". Jiang appears to be the first public whistleblower from China's ethnic Han majority to testify about conditions in detention centres.
  - **U.S. TRADE POLICY:** On October 4, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai outlined the administration's long-awaited trade policy strategy towards China. By highlighting the U.S.' concerns with China's state-centred and non-market trade practices, Ambassador Tai characterised the new approach as focusing on "fair", "smarter" and "more resilient" trade, rather than "more trade" or "more liberalized trade". Immediate next steps include: 1) advancing discussions with China within the structure of the Phase One Agreement, including raising concerns about China's non-market behaviour and industrial policies, and 2) restarting the tariff exclusion process for the Section 301 tariffs in place against Chinese goods.
  - **SEN. YUEN PAU WOO:** On October 3, Global News reported on the online backlash towards Senator Yuen Pau Woo following his tweet urging Canadians to ponder the lessons learned from the two Michaels and Meng cases. He attached an op-ed that cited former U.S. Ambassador Chas Freeman: the "U.S., assisted by Canada, took Meng hostage in the first place as part of its trade-and-technology war with China".
  - **HUSEYIN CELIL:** On October 2, Kamila Talendibaeva, the wife of Huseyin Celil, wrote a piece in the Globe and Mail criticizing the Liberal government's lack of support in advocating for Celil's release, and urged PM Trudeau to send a special envoy to China for securing his release.

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**Madore, Joanne**

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**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca on behalf of Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 5:49 PM  
**To:** Morrison, David; Patrick.Wittmann@pco.bco.gc.ca; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Holton@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update - Friday, October 22, 2021

**Key developments since Friday, October 15, 2021**

CONSULAR NIL

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS NIL

CANADA-CHINA

**Diplomatic**

- On October 20, OGM spoke to Ambassador Cong for the first time since the return of the two Michaels. [REDACTED]
- On October 18, the University of Alberta China Institute (CIUA) and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPFIA) hosted a Track II Dialogue featuring Canadian and Chinese delegates. The panel was moderated by Gordon Houlden, Director of CIUA, and Wang Chao, President of CPIFA. The dialogue focused on the future of Canada-China relations, the U.S., trade, and Taiwan. Delegates proposed further dialogues between either media organizations or Chambers of Commerce to enhance mutual understanding between Canada and China.
- On October 18, OPD/ Epp spoke with PRC chargé d'affaires ad interim Lan Heping at Lan's request. [REDACTED]

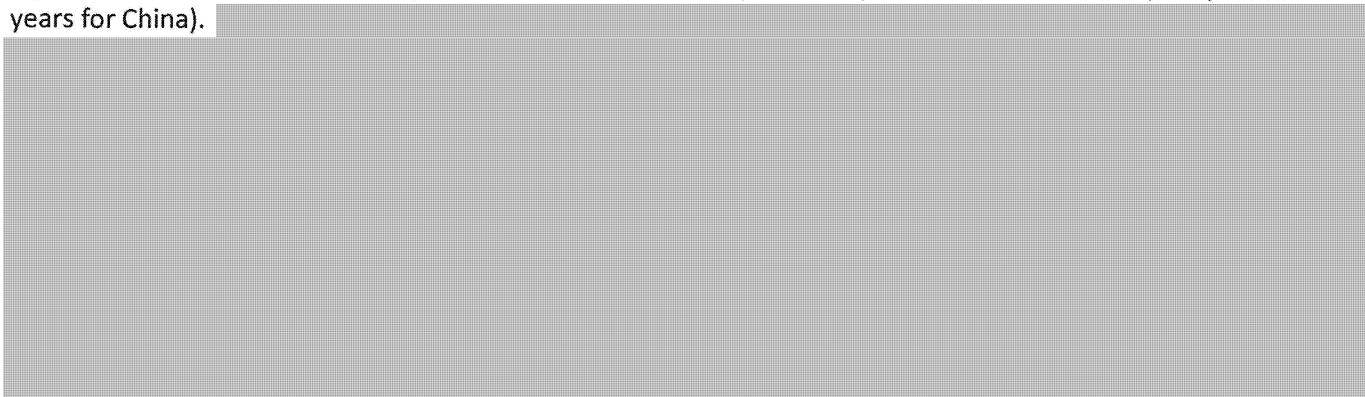
**Commercial:**

- **OLYMPIC AIR TRAVEL:** China continues to restrict foreign airlines from operating passenger flights to Beijing. This is impacting access for Canadian and international athletes participating in the Beijing Winter Olympics and associated trial runs. China has proposed allowing direct charter flights to Beijing for the purpose of transporting Olympic athletes and staff. This week, Air Canada indicated that it is unlikely to charter flights for the various trial runs, but would likely operate a limited number of charter flights for the official events. Air Canada is awaiting official travel guidelines from the Beijing Organizing Committee, which are expected to be released by the end of October, before finalizing its plans. GAC (BEIJING, TMS, and OPC) is coordinating with Transport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee, and Air Canada to facilitate access for Canadian athletes.
- **CHINA WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW:** On October 20 and 22, the WTO's Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) undertook a review of the trade policies and practices of China. Trade Policy Reviews are mandated by WTO



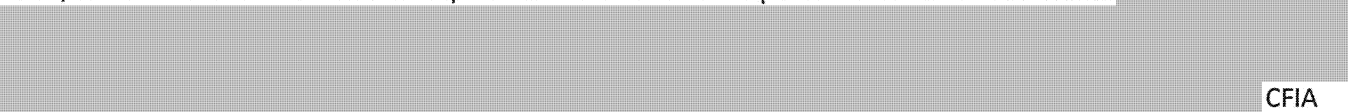
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agreements, and take place at regular intervals determined by a country's share of world trade (every three years for China).



- **CANADIAN LUMBER EXPORTS:** Last month, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) was advised by the Canada Wood Group (CWG) that Chinese Customs had increased the inspection rate of Canadian lumber shipments. The CWG indicated that all lumber shipments exported to China from Canada and the U.S. within recent weeks have been inspected and tested for pinewood nematode and these measures have resulted in a delay for the release of all lumber shipments that have been exported from Canada to China.

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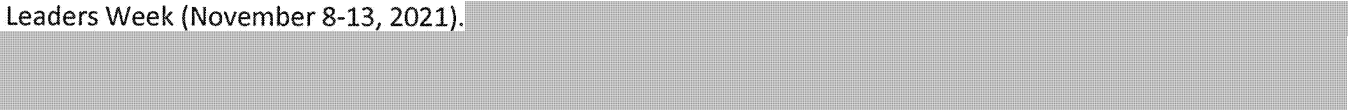


CFIA

and Embassy colleagues in Beijing are engaged with Chinese authorities on the issue. While Canada has not yet received any notifications of non-compliance from China related to the detection of pinewood nematode, these measures could hit Canada's approximate \$900M in annual lumber and log exports to China.

- **INDIGENOUS TRADE:** Canada has been engaging in discussions on the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA) with New Zealand, Australia, and Taiwan. Although the IPETCA is not officially part of APEC, New Zealand (current Chair of APEC) hopes to present the Arrangement during the APEC Leaders Week (November 8-13, 2021).

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### HONG KONG

- **ASSET AUDIT:** On October 21, Senator Leo Housakos and Lord David Alton wrote in the *Hill Times* that the Pandora Papers leak shows a need for an audit of Hong Kong officials' assets in Canada and the U.K. CY Leung and Tung Chee-Hwa, former Chief Executives and enthusiastic supporters of Beijing, were found to have used offshore tax havens. The article listed several high-ranking Hong Kong officials responsible for the crackdown in Hong Kong who reportedly have assets in Canada.
- **U.S. STATEMENT:** On October 21, the U.S. State Department said it remained seriously concerned by the "the continued erosion of human rights" in Hong Kong, noting the increasing crackdown on "teachers, labor unions, lawyers, journalists, health care workers, student unions, and individual citizens", and urged authorities to release those who were "unjustly detained".
- **NATIONAL SECURITY LAW (NSL):** On October 18, the *National Post* reported on a recent Hong Kong court ruling allowing the police to probe older offenses that took place before the implementation of the NSL, despite assurances by the Beijing and Hong Kong governments that the legislation would not be retroactive.
- **PROTEST SENTENCING:** On October 16, seven Hong Kong democracy activists, including former lawmakers, were sentenced to up to 12 months in jail under the NSL for their role in a protest on July 1, 2020. The activists included civil society leaders and former district councillors and legislators.

### TAIWAN

- **U.S. DEFENDING TAIWAN:** On October 21, U.S. President Joe Biden said that the U.S. would defend Taiwan in face of an attack from China. A spokesperson from the White House later clarified that there had been no change in official U.S. policy on Taiwan following Biden's comments.

- **EU TAIWAN RELATIONS:** On October 21, the European Parliament voted in favour of a non-binding resolution requesting that the E.C. “urgently begin an impact assessment, public consultation and scoping exercise on a bilateral investment agreement” between the E.U. and Taiwan. The resolution also included re-naming the trade office as the “European Union Office in Taiwan”.
  - o On October 21, PRC MFA spokesperson Wang Wenbin criticized the vote, calling on the European Parliament to “immediately stop its words and deeds that undermined China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and stop provocation and confrontation”.
- **ADIZ INCURSION:** On October 21, U.K. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace called on China to find a peaceful way to settle its dispute with Taiwan, warning that Chinese incursions into the Taiwanese ADIZ were dangerous and could spark conflict.
- **CANADIAN STRATEGY:** On October 20, J. Michael Cole, a senior fellow with the Global Taiwan Institute, wrote that Canada must rethink its entire Taiwan strategy if Canada is to side with the “liberal democratic camp”. Cole stated that Canada must not allow Beijing to define the substance of Canada's Taiwan policy, and argued for a military presence of like-minded countries in the region to provide a deterrent against a Chinese attack on Taiwan. He noted smaller countries such as the Czech Republic and Lithuania changed their policy towards Taiwan and survived Beijing's threats of retaliation, and that Canada should “stop pretending that low-level engagement with Taiwan on ‘safe’ issues (...) is sufficient”.
- **ODDS OF WAR:** On October 20, Taiwan's National Security Bureau Director-General Chen Ming-tong told a parliamentary defense committee meeting that the odds of war with China in the next year are “very low”.

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **EVERGRANDE:** On October 22, *Reuters* reported that Evergrande Group supplied USD \$83.5 million to a trustee account to pay interest on a U.S. dollar bond, before the grace period ends on October 23, thus averting default.
  - o On October 15, the head of financial markets at the People's Bank of China said that the spillover effect of Evergrande Group's debt problems on the banking system is controllable. Chinese officials and state media have been largely silent on the crisis at Evergrande.
  - o On October 15, *Reuters* reported that Evergrande's CEO is holding talks with investment banks and creditors over a possible restructuring and asset sales.
- **CANADA-CHINA RELATIONS:** On October 21, Linda McQuaig wrote an opinion piece in the *Toronto Star* arguing that the threat of climate change requires cooperation with China. Moreover, Canada “threw the first stone” by arresting Meng Wanzhou under the “dubious U.S. charge”, and argues Canada should have declined to cooperate with the U.S. extradition request.
- **U.N. XINJIANG STATEMENTS:** On October 21, France led a joint statement on behalf of 43 countries, including Canada, on human rights violations by China (Xinjiang, Hong Kong) at the UNGA Third Committee. In response, Cuba led a joint statement on behalf of 62 countries dismissing the allegations of abuse, saying the charges were based on political motivation and disinformation (Chinese state media reporting can be found here and here).
  - o On October 21, Zhang Jun, Chinese Ambassador to the U.N., warned France not to “submit to the United States”, or risk losing dignity and respect, following France's joint statement.
- **SIXTH PLENARY SESSION:** On October 21, James Griffiths wrote in the *Globe and Mail* possible outcomes of the sixth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee to be held from November 8-11. The author noted that officials will discuss a “key resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the party's 100 years of endeavours”. Historical resolutions have only been adopted twice before, and for the purpose of consolidating power. Deng Yuwen, a former Central Party School official, suggested that a new historical resolution could empower Xi to address his internal critics and rationalize abandoning term limits and economic reforms.
- **CONDEMNATION AT WTO:** On October 21, the Australian mission in Geneva denounced China's trade practices at a WTO meeting, saying China had benefited “significantly” from 20 years of WTO membership, but was not keeping its end of the bargain. In a statement after the meeting, Australia insisted that sanctions on its goods were politically motivated, and showed a “growing gap between China's rhetoric and its actions”.
  - o On October 20, *Reuters* reported that Australia, Canada, the E.U., the U.K. and the U.S. called on China to carry out further liberalization and open its markets in a WTO meeting.

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- **PACIFIC COUNTRIES OUTREACH:** On October 21, PRC Foreign Minister Wang Yi hosted the China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Wang called for the deepening policy communication, regular foreign ministers' meetings between China and Pacific Island countries, and pledged to help the countries fight COVID-19.
- **HYPERSONIC WEAPONS:** On October 20, U.S. President Joe Biden was asked whether he was concerned about the weapons, to which he responded, "Yes".
  - o On October 19, Russia said that the hypersonic test by China breached none of Beijing's international obligations, posed no threat to Russia, and followed similar moves by the U.S.
  - o On October 18, a PRC spokesperson denied the report of a hypersonic missile test, saying "it was a space vehicle," and that it had been a "routine test" to reuse the vehicle".
  - o On October 16, the *Financial Times* reported that China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in August this year that "demonstrate[ed] an advanced space capability that caught U.S. intelligence by surprise."
- **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHINA:** On October 20, Nicholas Burns, U.S. nominee for Ambassador to China, said at his Senate confirmation hearing that the "genocide" in Xinjiang, abuses in Tibet, and bullying of Taiwan must stop. Burns also said China is "blasting past" its pledge to maintain only a minimum nuclear deterrent, adding Washington should work with allies to push back on trade and support U.S. businesses.
- **SANCTIONS ACT:** On October 19, the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations passed the bi-partisan South China Sea and East China Sea Sanctions Act, which would impose sanctions against Chinese individuals and entities that participate in "Beijing's attempts to aggressively assert its expansive maritime and territorial claims over the South and East China Seas". The bill will now advance to a vote on the Senate floor. The *Global Times* warned that China will retaliate accordingly if bill is pursued.
- **CANOLA:** On October 19, *Bloomberg* reported that the resolution of Meng's criminal charges is boosting confidence in the canola industry. Jim Everson, president of the Canola Council of Canada said that the release of Meng and the two Michaels "hopefully that lowers the temperatures between the two countries".
- **XI OPPOSITION:** On October 19, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that President Xi Jinping is facing resistance from party elites and its rank-and-file members over a nationwide property tax aimed at curbing housing speculation.
- **FINANCIAL REGULATION:** On October 19, *Reuters* reported on Guo Shuqing, Communist party chief of the People's Bank of China's statement that the bank will emphasize regulation and the development of Internet finance activities. The statement comes as Chinese regulatory authorities have been targeting Internet giants in a wide-ranging crackdown encompassing antitrust and privacy issues, user data, and cryptocurrencies.
- **CHINESE HACKING:** On October 19, CrowdStrike, a U.S. cybersecurity company said that since 2016, a hacking group with suspected ties to China burrowed into mobile telephone networks around the world and used specialized tools to grab calling records and text messages from telecommunication carriers. A senior at CrowdStrike said his team was not accusing the Chinese government, but he said the attacks had connections to China and techniques that echoed previous attacks by the Chinese government.
- **CANADA FOREIGN POLICY:** On October 19, Stephanie Carvin, International Relations lecturer, Carleton University, wrote that with the advent of AUKUS, Canada needs to "take stock of the implications of recent developments in the Asia-Pacific for our foreign, defence and security policies". Carvin suggests modernizing NORAD as concerns about Russia and China in the Arctic grow, and adopting a clear "pivot to Asia" policy, similar to the U.S., U.K., and the E.U.
  - o On October 16, George McLeod, a political risk analyst on Asian affairs, wrote in the *National Post* that given China's increasing aggression towards Taiwan, Canada should seek alternatives to China's exports and domestic market with countries that have both stronger growth and little or no geopolitical risk.

McLeod lists Vietnam, Thailand, and Bangladesh as good examples, and suggests Canada should actively promote these countries as alternatives to doing business with China.

- **BEIJING OLYMPICS:** On October 18, two protesters were arrested for disrupting the flame lighting ceremony for the Beijing Winter Olympics. Exiled Hong Kong activist Joey Siu and Tibetan-American student Tsela Zoksang, both U.S. citizens, entered the grounds with a banner reading “No genocide games” and the Tibetan flag, before being arrested.
- **HMCS WINNIPEG:** On October 17, China’s Ministry of Defence issued a statement calling the sailing of the HMCS Winnipeg and the U.S. vessel USS Dewey through the Taiwan Strait on October 15 as “provocative” and threatening “peace and stability.”
- **POTASH:** On October 16, the *Regina Leader-Post* reported that Western Resources Corp., a potash mining company partly owned by the Chinese Government, owes about \$33.1 million in outstanding bills, including to several Saskatchewan companies. The China Development Bank (CBD) withdrew its entire business from Canada, including funding to Western Resources, at the end of 2019 due to the worsening bilateral relations.
- **TIANGONG:** On October 16, three Chinese astronauts began their six-month mission to Tiangong, China’s permanent space station. China’s military-run space program plans to send multiple crews to the station over the next two years to make it fully functional.
- **XINJIANG MILITANTS:** On October 16, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that the escape of East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) militants following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan could threaten ties between the Taliban and China. The Taliban have assured Beijing it would not allow Uyghur militants to stage attacks from Afghanistan.
- **CONSERVATIVE PARTY CHINESE VOTES:** On October 16, Rupa Subramanya, researcher and writer in international affairs, wrote a piece in the *National Post* analyzing the low support of Chinese-Canadians for the Conservative Party. She uses the lack of Indian-Canadian support to the Liberal Party after the Chrétien government placed sanctions on India for nuclear weapons testing as an example of the power of diasporic voting patterns.
  - o On October 15, Roromme Chantal wrote in *L’Acadie Nouvelle* that the call for Erin O’Toole to resign as leader from the Conservative Party by Chinese-Canadian Conservatives shows the extent of China’s “sharp power” in Canada.
- **COP26:** On October 15, Jeffrey Jones wrote in the *Globe and Mail* that Xi’s absence from COP26 may indicate China’s refusal to set new climate targets. Xi’s absence comes as China faces rolling blackouts and coal shortages that have forced factories to close.

**Reminder!:** For an evergreen link to upcoming events/actions of relevance, please see the [Canada-China forward calendar on GCPedia](#)

## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Jim.Nickel@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 3:14 AM  
**To:** Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca; D-OPB@international.gc.ca; D-OPC@international.gc.ca; Melanie.Klingbeil@international.gc.ca; Aurora.Zhang@international.gc.ca; Dennis.Abraham@international.gc.ca; Joanne.Lazarus@international.gc.ca; Dominic.Barton@international.gc.ca; Jordan.Reeves@international.gc.ca; Huy.Nguyen@international.gc.ca; Dave.Murphy@international.gc.ca; Laurel.Rasmus@international.gc.ca; Philippe.Rheault@international.gc.ca; Mark.Vcislo@international.gc.ca; Derry.McDonell@international.gc.ca; D-BEJING-GR-CBS@international.gc.ca; Joselito.Sia@international.gc.ca; Rachael.Bedlington@international.gc.ca; Chad.Hensler@international.gc.ca; France.Viens@international.gc.ca; Melissa.Adler@international.gc.ca; Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca; Martin.Laflamme@international.gc.ca; Paul.Cunningham@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Elise.Kimmell@international.gc.ca; Jeff.David@international.gc.ca; Margaret.McGuire@international.gc.ca; Jennifer.Lalonde@international.gc.ca; Benoit.Girouard@international.gc.ca; Kathy.Bunka@international.gc.ca; Mawiya.Abdourahman@international.gc.ca; Marie-Isabelle.Beyer@international.gc.ca; Charles.Denhez@international.gc.ca; Karine.Asselin@international.gc.ca; Joshua.Denis@international.gc.ca; Priya.Sinha@international.gc.ca; Joffre.LebLANC@international.gc.ca; James.Poborsa@international.gc.ca; Rainer.Duschinsky@international.gc.ca; Colleen.Sinclair@international.gc.ca; Hamilton, David; Louis-Martin.Aumais@international.gc.ca; alexandre.leveque@pco.bcp.gc.ca; Goosen, Jennifer; Morrison, David; Kirsten.Hillman@international.gc.ca; Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca; Graeme.McIntyre@international.gc.ca; Daniel.Koldyk@international.gc.ca; Rochelle.Bacigalupo@international.gc.ca; Jean-Christian.Brillant@international.gc.ca; D-USS-DMAAdvisors@international.gc.ca; D-DMT-Policy@international.gc.ca; Marilene.Gourdeau-Bussiere@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** BEJING-4897 Ambassador Barton's call with MFA Vice Minister Xie Feng, October 20

s.13(1)

s.15(1)

*Reftel OPB-224, Oct 23, OGM call with Ambassador Cong Peiwu, Oct 20*

**Summary:** On October 20, BEJING HOM spoke with MFA Vice Minister Xie Feng at his request.

The discussion mirrored Ambassador Cong Peiwu's Oct 20 call to OGM (see OPB reftel).

### 1. Bilateral Relations:

[Redacted]

**2 China's perspective:** Xie Feng used the opportunity of the call to share at length with Amb Barton China's views on the bilateral relationship and what it sees as the basis for moving forward.

[Redacted]

3 [Redacted]

He highlighted the fact that China is the only major economy registering positive growth, that in the next five years China will account for 25% of Global GDP, that China's 400 million people in the middle-income group is on track to grow to 800 million middle-income consumers, and that over the next 10 years China will import \$22 trillion of goods and services.

[Redacted]

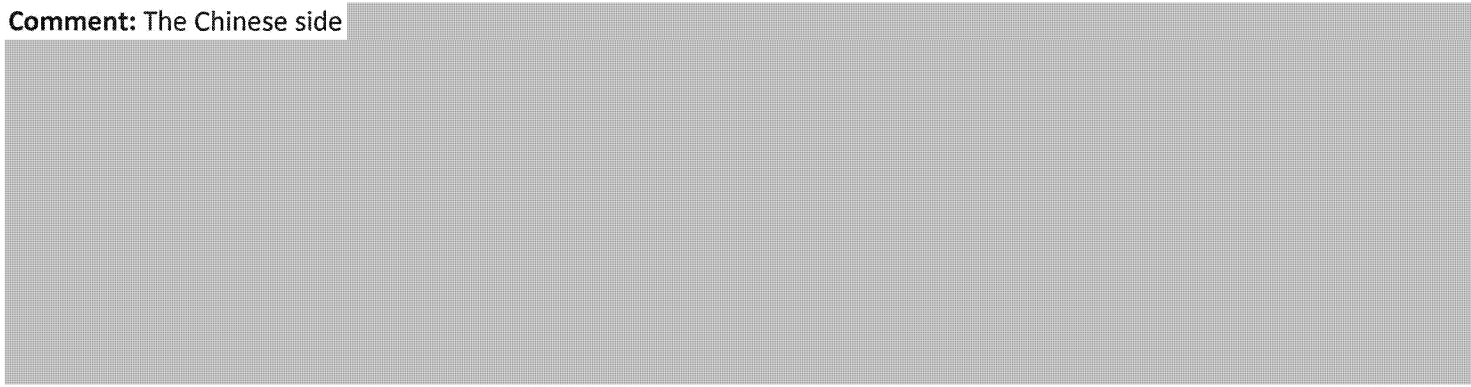
4. [Redacted]

5. [Redacted]



s.15(1)

**Comment:** The Chinese side



Drafted: Nickel

Approved: Ambassador Barton



## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca on behalf of Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2021 5:54 PM  
**To:** Morrison, David; Patrick.Wittmann@pco.bco.gc.ca; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Holton@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update-Friday, November 19, 2021

### Key developments since Friday, November 12, 2021

#### CONSULAR NIL

#### PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

- Parliament resumes November 22. Expected areas of opposition interest are Beijing Olympic Games (scheduled for February 22, 2022) and imports from Xinjiang.

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#### CANADA-CHINA

s.15(1)

#### Diplomatic

- On November 17, OPB/Chen spoke with PRC Political Counsellor Hu Lihua at his request. [REDACTED]
- On November 16, OGM attended a luncheon hosted by Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu at the Chinese Embassy, accompanied by OPB/Chen and OPC/Robinson. [REDACTED]
- On November 12, IGD/Hamilton met with Lan Heping, Acting PRC DHOM, via videoconference, [REDACTED]

#### Commercial NIL

#### HONG KONG

- **VISA:** On November 13, the Economist expressed regret that Hong Kong immigration authorities declined to renew the visa of one of its journalists.

#### TAIWAN

- **LITHUANIA OFFICE:** On October 18, the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania opened, breaking with the tradition of calling its representative outposts Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices. In response, the PRC MFA warned that "the Lithuanian side shall reap what it sows".
- **FRIENDSHIP CITY:** On November 9, the Chinese Consulate of Vancouver issued a statement objecting to the planned "Friendship City Program" between Kaohsiung and Vancouver. Angel Liu, Director-General of the Taipei

Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver, said on November 12 that the Consulate's warning was "unreasonable".

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **OLYMPIC BOYCOTT:** On November 18, during a meeting with PM Trudeau, President Joe Biden was asked about a potential boycott of the 2022 Olympic Games. Biden responded by saying it was "something we are considering". Media report the decision will be made before the end of November.
- **CANADIAN FP:** On November 18, John Ibbitson wrote in *The Globe and Mail* that the Conservative and Liberal Parties should work together to form a strong, unified response to China. In order to be a reliable ally, Ibbitson suggested that Canada join the QUAD, AUKUS, spend more on defense, and increase our cybersecurity capabilities.
- **ANTI-MONOPOLY:** On November 18, China launched the National Anti-Monopoly Bureau, which will be responsible for implementing anti-trust regulations, and helping Chinese companies with anti-trust charges overseas.
- **MARITIME MILITIA:** On November 18, the Center for Strategic and International Studies released a report documenting the "explosion" of Chinese maritime militia vessels patrolling the South China Sea.
- **GROWING INFLUENCE IN INT'L INSTITUTIONS:** On November 18, the Center for Global Development released a report revealing new data on China's increasing influence and power over global institutions. The report found that China has greatly increased its funding to institutions, while simultaneously benefitting as a recipient. For example, China has eclipsed Japan to become the second-largest contributor to the system of development banks providing more than \$66 billion in total capital. A summary can be found here.
- **U.S. REPORT:** On November 17, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a report noting that assertive behavior was likely to intensify as Xi Jinping confronts a gap between nationalist rhetoric at home and challenges from growing debt to technological dependence on the U.S., as well as international criticism of its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **PENG SHUAI:** On November 18, Women's Tennis Association (WTA) CEO Steve Simon told *CNN* in an interview that the WTA is "definitely willing to pull our business [from China] and deal with all the complications that come with it" if Peng Shuai is not accounted for. Peng has not been seen in public since accusing former Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault.
  - o On November 17, Steve Simon released a statement expressing concern for the welfare of Peng Shuai and had a "hard time believing" an email allegedly written by her and released by CGTN.
- **BIDEN-XI VIRTUAL SUMMIT:**
  - o On November 17, China Daily reported that China and the U.S. agreed to ease restrictions on each of their journalist visas.
  - o On November 16, the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed gratitude toward Biden for affirming Washington's commitment to Taiwan, and its opposition to the PRC's attempts to change the status quo and cross-strait peace.
  - o On November 15, Joe Biden and Xi Jinping met virtually. Biden raised concerns about the PRC's track record on human rights, unfair economic practices, a free and open Indo-Pacific, commitment to the "one China" policy, and other global challenges. Xi told Biden that China is ready "to build consensus, take active steps and move China-U.S. relations forward in a positive direction", but warned that he was "playing with fire" over Taiwan.
- **NUCLEAR CONVERSATIONS:** On November 17, the U.S. National Security Advisor said that the U.S. and China will aim to have "conversations" on arms control, "not formal talks", in a reference to U.S. concerns about China's nuclear and missile buildup.
- **AUSTRALIA PROTECTION:**
  - o On November 17, Australian PM Scott Morrison announced a new plan to protect and promote "critical technologies", challenging China's emerging dominance in key strategic fields.
  - o On November 17, Australian Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews announced new guidelines on foreign interference for universities to stop self-censorship on campuses and the covert transfer of sensitive technology. The guidelines do not name China itself, but features case studies that parallel incidents involving China.

- **CANADIAN WARSHIP:** On November 17, the *Global Times* published a commentary citing a Chinese military expert stating that the recent presence of the HMCS Winnipeg in the Taiwan Strait is a provocative act encouraged by the U.S. to undermine stability and only showed “Canada’s stunt to seek for attention and Japan’s bluffing [sic] to deter China”.
- **FORCED LABOUR GOODS:** On November 16, *The Globe and Mail* reported that the CBSA seized goods from China identified as being made with forced labour, the first Chinese shipment intercepted for this reason since the government amended the Customs Tariff to ban the import of goods made by forced labour.
- **CHINESE DEMOCRACY:** On November 16, Ambassador Cong Peiwu wrote an article in *Ottawa Life Magazine* that there are “many ways to be democratic”. Cong contended that “China has actively developed ‘whole-process people’s democracy’, made comprehensive efforts to improve the institutions, standards, and procedures of China’s socialist democracy, and given better play to the strengths of the Chinese socialist political system in an effort to consolidate and develop political stability, unity, and dynamism”. Cong concluded that “it is hardly democratic to apply a single yardstick to all of the world’s diverse political systems”.
- **KEY RESOLUTION:** On November 16, *Xinhua*, released the full text of the Resolution of the CPC Central Committee on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century, containing 13 aspects of specific challenges, risks, and problems the Party faces. The resolution stated China was facing increasing national security threats and stated that the CCP would “fight to the end” with any forces that attempted to subvert the CCP and China’s socialist system. The resolution condemned the “money worship”, “extreme individualism”, and corruption that emerged in the four decades since the country opened up, and called for stronger party leadership and moral discipline. It also stressed the importance of harnessing the power of the Internet and “reunification” with Taiwan. The resolution argued that “GDP cannot be the sole criterion of success”, with other benchmarks, such as innovation, environmental action, and social prosperity to be prioritized.
- **XINJIANG BLANKET BAN:** On November 16, Senator Leo Housakos said in the *National Post* that he would bring forward a bill that aims to ban all imports from Xinjiang.
- **5G:** On November 15, Jim Bronskill wrote in *The Canadian Press* about comments made by global security experts that Huawei should be excluded from Canada’s 5G network. Wesley Wark, senior fellow with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, said that regardless of whether Huawei poses a genuine security risk, Canada cannot afford to gamble on a firm that is supported by Beijing.
- **LEVERAGE:** On November 12, the *Toronto Sun* Editorial Board wrote that despite the return of the Michaels, the low point in our relationship with China is not over, and that Canada needs to position itself so that China does not have leverage over us in the future.

#### KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION – MEETING OF STATE PARTIES (NOVEMBER 22-25):** China to lead on a proposed voluntary code of conduct for scientists in the biological field, known as the [Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines \(link\)](#).
- **UYGHUR EVENT ON PARLIAMENT HILL:** (NOVEMBER 23-25): Organized by the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project. The event consists of a rally, a photo exhibition, a symposium with Canadian MPs/Senators and other academics, and other activities to highlight the human rights violations in Xinjiang ([link](#)).
- **HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORUM (NOVEMBER 19-21):** An annual Forum hosting discussion on international security challenges ([link](#)).

**Reminder!:** For an evergreen link to upcoming events/actions of relevance, please see the [Canada-China forward calendar](#) on GCPedia

**Madore, Joanne**

**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca on behalf of Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 2021 6:11 PM  
**To:** Lévêque, Alexandre; MacDonald, Mike; Morrison, David; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Holton@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update-Friday, November 26, 2021

**Key developments since Friday, November 19, 2021**

**CONSULAR NIL**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

- **OLYMPICS:** On November 24, Senator Leo Housakos asked in the Senate whether Canada will boycott the Beijing Olympic Games. Senator Marc Gold, the Government Representative, responded that Canada is “discuss[ing] this issue with our partners to ensure that decisions that are made are both effective and coordinated”.
- **XINJIANG BILL:** On November 24, Senator Housakos introduced Senate Public Bill – Bill S-204: An Act to Amend the Customs Tariff (short title: Xinjiang Manufactured Goods Importation Prohibition Act) at First Reading. This bill would ban all imports from Xinjiang, and make the job easier for border agency officials, according to Senator Housakos.
- **THRONE SPEECH:** On November 23, during the Speech from the Throne, the Governor-General announced that Canada will make “deliberate efforts to deepen partnerships in the Indo-Pacific” and that “Canada must reinforce international peace and security, the rule of law, democracy, and respect for human rights” in the face of rising “authoritarianism and great power competition”.

**CANADA-CHINA**

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**Diplomatic**

- On November 26, OPD/ Epp spoke with PRC Ambassador Cong Peiwu at his request. [REDACTED]
- On November 25, MINA spoke with the recently appointed Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, HAYASHI Yoshimasa at MINA’s request. [REDACTED]
- On November 24, MINA had bilateral separately with Minister Mahuta of New-Zealand and Minister Payne of Australia both substantively included exchange on China and Indo-Pacific.

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**Commercial**

- On November 25, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are (AAFC) hosted a call with the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) and the two affected Canadian canola exporters, Richardson and Viterra, to discuss Canada’s approach for the upcoming WTO hearings. Non-disclosure agreements provided by AAFC are currently being reviewed by all Canadian parties so that additional details, including legal submissions, can be shared in advance of the hearings. Unlike Viterra, Richardson is not a member of CCC.

## HONG KONG

- **ELECTION:** On November 23, Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced that Hong Kong will set up special polling stations for residents in the Mainland to vote in the upcoming legislative election. The measure could boost voter turnout, which is widely expected to be lower this year following the electoral reforms.
- **ACTIVIST SENTENCED:** On November 23, former Hong Kong independence activist Tony Cheung was sentenced to 43 months in prison. He was charged with secession and money laundering back in October 2020.

## TAIWAN

- **U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VISIT:** On November 25-26, a bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation led by Veterans' Affairs chair Mark Takano visited Taiwan, meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen, Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, and Veterans Affairs Council Minister Feng Shih-kuan. This is the second time in a month U.S. lawmakers have visited the island.
- **INTERNATIONAL EXCLUSION:** On November 24, Winston Wen-Yi Chen, the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada wrote in the *Hill Times* that Taiwan's exclusion from Interpol reduces the efficacy of the organization.
- **CANADA SUPPORT:** On November 24, Winston Chen wrote in the *Hill Times*, calling on Canada to explore a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Taiwan, and to support Taiwan's accession to the CPTPP.
- **SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY:** On November 23, the U.S. published a list of participants to the Summit for Democracy, which includes Taiwan. The PRC MFA said it "firmly opposes" Taiwan's inclusion.
- **ECONOMIC DIALOGUE:** On November 23, the U.S. and Taiwan held their second Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue, where they discussed chip shortages and how to respond to PRC's economic coercion.
- **CORPORATE DIRECTION:** On November 22, the PRC's Taiwan Affairs Office said that Taiwanese firms operating in China need to draw a line between themselves and independence supporters, after punishing Taiwanese firm Far Eastern Group for business violations.

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **GOOD RELATIONS:** On November 26, Olivier Desmarais, Chair of the Canada-China Business Council, wrote (fr) in *La Presse* calling on Canadian and Chinese companies and the Canadian government to establish good relations with China. He wrote that, with the return of the two Michaels, it is time to start cooperating in areas such as on the pandemic, climate change and, cyberattacks.
- **INTERPOL ELECTION:** On November 25, Hu Binchen, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Public Security, was elected to serve on Interpol's executive Committee. The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China condemned the selection.
- **OLYMPIC BOYCOTT:** On November 24, Eric Morse, a retired Canadian diplomat involved in the 1980 Moscow Olympic boycott, wrote in *The Globe and Mail* that a diplomatic boycott would be "wimpy" and "dangerous". He argued that "hostage diplomacy" would have been "out of bounds" for the Soviet Union, which launched a counter-boycott in 1984. However, China will stop at nothing to retaliate against slights, and hostage-taking is very much a factor.
  - o On November 22, the PRC MFA was asked to comment on reports that the Five Eyes are discussing whether to boycott Beijing Olympics. The MFA stated that "China opposes [the] politicization of sports and any acts and words that violate the spirit of the Olympic Charter".
- **CHINA MOBILE CANADA:** On November 24, China Mobile Canada asked the Chief Justice of the Federal Court to pause an order for it to divest its stake in a Canadian subsidiary over national security concerns. The Chief Justice said he aimed to issue a decision on the stay application "sooner rather than later".
- **PENG SHUAI/ OLYMPIC GAMES:** On November 24, Caroline Chen of the *Associated Press* wrote of several women's rights activists who have been disappeared in China for helping women report sexual harassment. Chen noted that many #MeToo activists are seen as "tools of foreign interference" in China.
  - o On November 23, the PRC MFA said that "certain people" should stop the "malicious hyping" and "politicization" of the issue of Peng Shuai.

- On November 23, Margaret McCuaig-Johnston, Senior Fellow at the China Institute at the University of Alberta, proposed a boycott of the Olympic Games in Beijing, following the disappearance of Peng Shuai. She argued that not only should we not watch the Olympics, but Canadian athletes should boycott the opening and closing ceremonies in recognition of the Uyghur genocide.
- On November 22, Rosie Dimanno wrote in the *Toronto Star* that the IOC's "quiet diplomacy" with China over Peng is a "fig leaf for timidity". She called for an independent investigation of Peng's accusations and for Olympic athletes to boycott the opening ceremony.
- On November 21, IOC President Thomas Bach reported that he spoke with Peng Shuai via videoconference. According to the readout, Shuai said that "she is safe and well, living at her home in Beijing, but would like to have her privacy respected at this time". Human Rights Watch condemned the call, saying that "the IOC appears to prize its relationship with a major human rights violator over the rights and safety of Olympic athletes".
- **WORLD UYGHUR CONGRESS:** On November 23, *the Globe and Mail* reported on the World Uyghur Congress leader's visit to Canada, his calls for Canada to create a refugee stream for Uyghurs, and to ramp up efforts to block forced labour imports from China. Dolkun Isa, the President of the group, hopes that the HoC motion declaring China's treatment of Turkic minorities a genocide and urging the IOC to move the 2022 Games if the genocide continued, was not "an empty promise bringing nothing".
- **INTERNET IDOL:** On November 23, the Cyberspace Administration of China issued a circular calling for an Internet-wide boycott of entertainers who have broken the law or transgressed social morality. Celebrity-related content promoting vulgar information or irrational acts of idol-worship will be prohibited, the office said.
- **XI SPEECH/ ASEAN:** On November 22, Xi Jinping spoke virtually at the ASEAN-China summit where he announced an elevation of relations with the block to a "comprehensive strategic partnership". Xi also announced major initiatives to boost economic cooperation, including importing \$150 billion worth of agricultural products from ASEAN members over the next five years. Xi said that China firmly opposed power politics and would never seek hegemony or bully its smaller neighbours. Xi's speech can be found here.
- **LITHUANIA RELATIONS:** On November 24, when asked about further punitive measures directed at the country, the PRC MFA said that Lithuania "must pay for the mistake it has made", referring to the opening of the Taiwan Representative Office in Vilnius.
  - On November 21, China downgraded its relations with Lithuania to the level of chargé d'affaires, following the opening of the office.
  - On November 21, the European Commission said it did not consider the opening of the office in Lithuania a breach of the EU's "one China" policy.
- **HUAWEI 5G:** On November 22, Brian Lilley of the *Toronto Sun* wrote that while the federal government has been considering whether to allow Huawei into Canada's 5G network, the company had sold hundreds of millions of dollars of equipment to Canadian telecom providers in the meantime.
  - On November 20, former Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull spoke at the Halifax International Security Forum where he said that Huawei 5G would leave Canada's networks vulnerable to China, and that the plight of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor should offer Canada sufficient insight.
- **U.S. ALLY COORDINATION:** On November 20, Admiral John Aquilino, U.S. commander of the Indo-Pacific, urged its allies to take part in more joint military exercises in the face of the rapidly evolving military situation in the region.
- **THIRD BRI SYMPOSIUM:** On November 19, Xi made a speech at the third BRI symposium held in Beijing, where he said that the BRI should aim for high-standards, sustainable and people-centered progress.
- **CHINESE BANK EASING:** On November 19, the China's central bank signaled possible easing measures to aid the economy's recovery after a sharp downturn in recent months fueled by a property slump.
- **KOREA ADIZ:** On November 19, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that it scrambled fighter jets after two Chinese and seven Russian warplanes entered its air defense identification zone.

#### KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- **FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (NOVEMBER 28 – 30):** The conference, being held in Dakar, Senegal, aims to conduct consultations on an equal footing, deepen mutual knowledge, broaden common ground, strengthen friendship, and promote cooperation between China and Africa ([link](#)).

- **UNGA 42<sup>nd</sup> PLENARY MEETING (DECEMBER 2):** The UNGA will consider a resolution titled, “Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic idea” (i.e. the Olympic Truce Resolution) ([link](#)).

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## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Alizee.DeSorgher@international.gc.ca on behalf of Weldon.Epp@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** Lévêque, Alexandre; MacDonald, Mike; Morrison, David; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Holton@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update-Friday, December 10, 2021

### Key developments since Friday, December 10, 2021


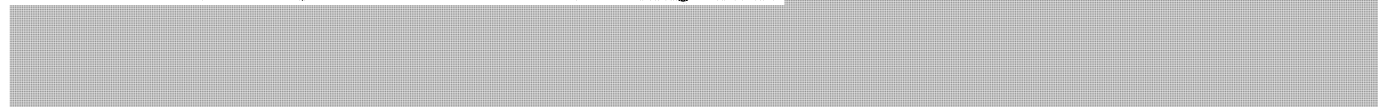
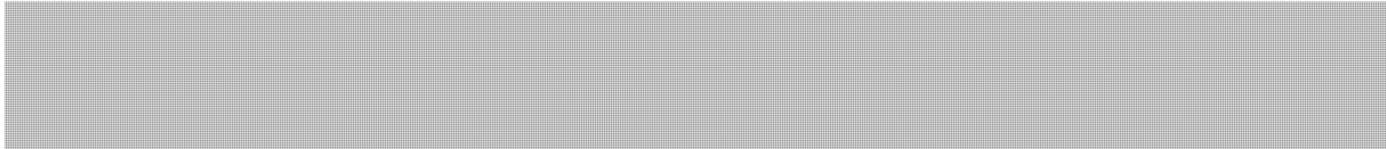
#### CONSULAR NIL

#### PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

- On December 8, CPC House leader Gerard Deltell rejected a proposed compromise over the disclosure of secret documents related to the firing of two scientists at Canada's highest-security laboratory. The proposal would have created a special all-party committee to review the documents, with a panel of three former senior judges determining what could be made public without jeopardizing national security.
- On December 7, Senator Marilou McPhedran asked why the government has not called for an independent investigation into the safety and freedom of Peng Shuai.
- On December 7, MINA appeared in Parliament during the Committee of the Whole, where she discussed a variety of topics related to China including the Indo-Pacific, Olympics, Xinjiang, the Arctic, and the rules-based international order.

#### CANADA-CHINA

##### Diplomatic

- On December 8, PM Trudeau announced that Canada would not be sending any diplomatic representation to the 2022 Olympics. s.15(1)
- On December 8, OPB/ Chen spoke with PRC Political Counsellor Hu Lihua at his request. 
- On December 8, OGM spoke with PRC Ambassador Cong Peiwu. 
- On December 6, OPB/ Chen spoke with Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Lan Heping at her request. s.13(1)  
s.15(1) 
- On December 6, PM Trudeau announced that Ambassador Dominic Barton would leave his post at the end of the year.

##### Commercial

- **FORMER ENGINEER ACTED ON BEHALF OF CHINESE FIRM:** On December 8, Wanping Zheng, a former Canadian Space Agency (CSA) employee, was charged with breach of trust for allegedly acting on behalf of a Chinese aerospace company. The RCMP said that Mr. Zheng allegedly used his status as a CSA engineer to negotiate agreements for the installation of satellite station facilities in Iceland. The CSA said that after concerns around Zheng's alleged activities arose, it took measures to end the engineer's employment in 2019. Zheng has a scheduled court appearance in Longueuil on December 15.

## HONG KONG

- **ACTIVISTS FOUND GUILTY:** On December 9, three pro-democracy activists were found guilty of taking part in a banned June 4th vigil in 2020. Jimmy Lai, founder of Apple Daily, was one of the three convicted. The other two, Gwyneth Ho and Chow Hang Tung, politician and vice-Chair of Hong Kong Alliance respectively, also face charges under the National Security Law. The three will be sentenced on December 13 and can face up to five years in jail.
- **CARRIE LAM INTERVIEW:** On December 7, the *Global Times* held an exclusive interview with Chief Executive Carrie Lam. When asked about a potential low voter turnout rate in the upcoming Legislative Council election, Lam responded by saying that “when the government is doing well and its credibility is high, the voter turnout will decrease because the people do not have a strong demand to choose different lawmakers to supervise the government. Therefore, I think the turnout rate does not mean anything”.
- **NATHAN LAW:** On December 7, Secretary for Security Chris Tang wrote that self-exiled activist Nathan Law was attempting to “slander the Central and SAR governments, spreading political lies” by accepting an invitation to speak at the Summit for Democracy, held in Washington DC from December 9-10.
- **WSJ EDITORIAL:** On December 5, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs wrote to the *Wall Street Journal* about its November 29<sup>th</sup> editorial, which called the upcoming election a “sham”, and that “boycotts and blank ballots are one of the last ways for Hong Kongers to express their political views”. Tsang said that the editorial contained “baseless assumptions” and warned that inciting another person not to vote is an offense, and that the government reserved the right to take necessary action.

## TAIWAN

- **NICARAGUA:** On December 10, Nicaragua and China signed a joint declaration, swapping out diplomatic recognition from the ROC (Taiwan) to the PRC. The U.S. has already issued a statement expressing its disappointment with Nicaragua's decision, noting as well the new President's lack of a mandate representing its citizens.
- **SELF-DEFENSE:** On December 8, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner told a U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing that “bolstering Taiwan's self-defenses is an urgent task and an essential feature” of deterring the threat of invasion by the PRC.

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **2 MICHAELS:** On December 10, Ambassador Cong Peiwu said that Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor confessed to crimes before their release. Cong also said that Canada will pay a price if it blocks Huawei from participating in Canada's 5G internet network.
  - o On December 9, Carson Jerema of the *National Post* criticized MINA's comment that the two Michaels are currently on bail. According to him, this gives legitimacy to the Chinese legal system, whereas the arrests of the Kovrig and Spavor were in fact illegal. He concluded that “Joly's comments are a gift to Beijing propagandists”.
  - o On December 8, in an interview with *CBC*, MINA said that “the two Michaels are on bail right now according to the criminal law in China and so we want to make sure that we work that out with the Chinese government”. GAC said that no bond had been posted for their release and maintained that they were “detained arbitrarily for political leverage”.
- **DEMOCRACY:** On December 10, Margaret McCuaig-Johnston wrote in the *Vancouver Sun* on the issue of arbitrary detention and “hostage diplomacy”. She believed the Summit for Democracy, hosted by U.S. President

Joe Biden, was an opportunity for Canada to come together with like-minded nations to develop clear strategies and eventually end the practice.

- On December 8, Charles Burton, a Senior Fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, wrote in *The Globe and Mail* about China's effort to undermine the Summit for Democracy. In the lead up to the Summit, China released a report on the success of its democracy, and the failures of American democracy. Burton expressed hope that Canada would step up to address authoritarianism instead of "virtue signalling".
- On December 5, the PRC MFA released a report titled "The State of Democracy in the United States". The report stated that democracy is a right for all nations, not a prerogative reserved for a few, and which can take different forms. The report listed five problems with American democracy: 1) money politics; 2) rule of the minority elite; 3) "vetocracy" 4) flawed electoral rules; and 5) trust crisis. A *Global Times* editorial of the report can be found here.
- **UYGHUR GENOCIDE:** On December 9, Taha Ghayyur, Executive Director of Justice for All Canada, wrote in the *National Post* accusing Global Affairs Canada of shifting away from its commitment to preserving religious freedom around the world. Ghayyur said that the department failed to provide the leadership on advocating for the rights of Uyghur Muslims, noting that Huseyin Celil is still in a Chinese prison.
  - On December 8, the U.K. Uyghur Tribunal issued its verdict finding China guilty of committing genocide against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.
- **OLYMPIC BOYCOTT:** On December 9, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France does not have plans to join a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Olympics, viewing it as "insignificant" and a symbolic gesture. Meanwhile, FM Le Drian said France would be seeking a common EU position on the issue.
  - On December 9, in response to the UK and Canada's decision not to send representatives to the 2022 Olympics, the PRC MFA stated that China "hasn't invited these countries" and that they "are put[ing] on a self-staged farce (...), pitting themselves against the big Olympic family".
  - On December 8, Canada, the U.K., and Australia announced that they would be not be sending any diplomatic representation to the 2022 Olympics. Japan is also considering a diplomatic boycott.
  - On December 8, the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa issued a statement about Canada's decision to diplomatically boycott the 2022 Olympic Games. The statement accused Canada of "stand[ing] on the opposite side of the truth and facts" and that Canada is "simply not qualified to be a 'human rights preacher'" given its treatment towards Indigenous peoples. The statement concluded that "Canada must stop politicizing sports (...) lest it should lead to self-inflicted humiliation".
  - On December 8, Terry Glavin wrote in the *Ottawa Citizen* criticizing Canada's delay in declaring its diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Olympics, which didn't go far enough. Glavin expressed skepticism about the significance of the Summit for Democracy, as autocratic regimes worldwide are on the offensive and the U.S., a country where democracy itself is threatened, is leading the democratic coalition.
  - On December 6, The White House announced that the U.S. would not send an official delegation to the 2022 Olympics as a statement against China's "ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang". In response, the PRC MFA said that China "deplores and firmly opposes to the remarks of the U.S. side and has lodged stern representations with the U.S. and will respond with firm countermeasures".
  - On December 6, the *Toronto Star* Editorial board wrote that Canada "has more reason than almost any other country to know that it cannot be business as usual", and should have announced a diplomatic boycott before the U.S. given China's treatment towards Canada. Similar editorials can be found here and here.
- **NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR COMMENTS:** On December 9, new U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Cohen was interviewed by *The Globe and Mail*, where he called China the "greatest threat" to the democratized world and said that the U.S. is looking to Canada to help confront China's growing military, authoritarianism, and economic ambitions, and challenge China on cyber security, and human rights.
- **AP REUTERS INFILTRATION:** On December 9, the Stockholm Free World Forum released a report on Chinese State Broadcaster CCTV's ability to buy unfiltered access to global news production, notably on AP and Reuters. According to the report, access is being used to spread disinformation and propaganda on a large scale. The volume of CCTV material being distributed by AP and Reuters appears to be increasing, while the awareness of the phenomenon in newsrooms seems to be low.

- **HYPERSONIC AIRCRAFT:** On December 9, the *South China Morning Post* reported on Chinese scientists creating a hypersonic aircraft with an engine design abandoned by NASA. The Two Stage Vehicle (TSV) X-plane was proposed by Ming Han Tang – then chief engineer of NASA’s hypersonic program in the late 1990s. Tang left NASA in 1999, a year when mistrust of ethnic Chinese scientists reached a new height in the US. The purge of Chinese researchers in the U.S. coincided with the start of China’s hypersonic weapons program, according to some Chinese space scientists.
- **EC LEGISLATION:** On December 8, the European Commission announced its proposed legislation for an anti-economic coercion instrument. The new instrument is designed as a response to the EU and its Member States becoming the target of deliberate economic pressure from third countries in recent years.
- **U.S. HOUSE XINJIANG:** On December 8, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act” which bans imports from China’s Xinjiang region over concerns about forced labor, passed by 428-1.
- **AMBASSADOR CONG COMMENTS:** On December 7, Ambassador Cong Peiwu spoke at a discussion hosted by the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Cong contended that concerns of Huawei equipment were “invented by the U.S.”, and accused it of being the “biggest threat” when it comes to spying, including of its own allies. Cong added that the decision on Huawei is a business issue, certain people should not “overstretch the concept of national security”, and warned that rejecting Huawei could hurt Canada’s standing among foreign investors.
- **TIBET RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS:** On December 7, *The Globe and Mail* reported on an investigation by the Tibet Action Institute, which concluded that 80 percent of Tibetan children in China have been placed in government-run boarding schools, cut off from their families, languages, and traditional culture. One of the report’s authors said that “the parallels were very striking” with the residential school system in Canada.
- **CHINA MOBILE CANADA:** On December 6, China Mobile International Canada lost a legal battle for the temporary suspension of the government’s order to close its Canadian branch on national security grounds.
- **AMBASSADOR BARTON:** On December 8, Terry Glavin wrote in the *National Post* that Dominic Barton will not be remembered “as one of Canada’s greatest ambassadors”, laying out arguments for his highly critical piece.
  - o On December 6, MP Erin O’Toole (CPC) called on the government to appoint someone who is clear-eyed about Beijing’s human-rights abuses, territorial claims, and strident nationalism, as Canada’s next ambassador. An editorial on Barton’s resignation can be found here.
  - o On December 7, John Ivison wrote in the *National Post* that Ambassador Barton chose the right time to leave his post as Ambassador to China. Ivison praised his contribution to the release of the two Michaels but argues that Canada doesn’t need a “promoter” of China. Similar editorials can be found here and here.

**Reminder!:** For an evergreen link to upcoming events/actions of relevance, please see the [Canada-China forward calendar on GCPedia](#)

## Madore, Joanne

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**From:** Justin.Wong@international.gc.ca  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 6:17 PM  
**To:** Lévêque, Alexandre; MacDonald, Mike; Morrison, David; Rigby, Vincent; Goosen, Jennifer; Hannaford, John (Ext); Paul.Thoppil@international.gc.ca; Brian.Szwarc@international.gc.ca; Cindy.Termorshuizen@international.gc.ca; Stephane.Levesque@international.gc.ca; Charles.Mojsej@international.gc.ca; Jason.Easton@international.gc.ca; MacLennan, Christopher (Ext); Daniel.Holton@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** China Weekly Update - Friday, December 17, 2021

Sent on behalf of Weldon Epp

The report will resume publication on January 7, 2022. All the best this holiday season!

### Key developments since Friday, December 10, 2021

#### CONSULAR NIL

#### PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

- On December 16, Ministerial mandate letters were released (link to all letters). The MINA included “deepening our partnerships in regions of strategic importance, such as the Indo-Pacific and Arctic regions”.
- On December 16, MP Garnett Genuis (CPC) moved that Bill S-223, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (trafficking in human organs) be read in the House for the first time. The Bill seeks to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking by making it a criminal offence in Canada for a person to go abroad and receive an organ taken without the consent of the person giving the organ.
- On December 14, during Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, MP Raquel Dancho (CPC) tabled a motion calling on the Minister of Public Safety to make a decision on Huawei’s involvement in Canada’s telecommunications network.
- On December 13, at the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE), MP Michael Chong (CPC) introduced a motion calling the on government to deposit, with the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel within one week of the adoption of this motion, the documents concerning the breaches at the government’s Winnipeg lab. Members did not vote on to motion, and instead, set it aside for the consideration of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure date in the new year.
- On December 13, during the FAAE, MP Stephane Bergeron introduce a motion to study the current situation between the PRC and Taiwan. The motion was not voted on.

#### CANADA-CHINA

s.13(1)

s.15(1)

#### Diplomatic

- On December 14, OGM had a call with Ambassador Cong [REDACTED]

#### Commercial

- **CTEC:** The 17th annual Canada-Taiwan Economic Consultations (CTEC) were held virtually on December 13. It was hosted by Canada, and co-chaired by OGM and Mr. C.C. Chen, DM, Ministry of Economic Affairs. The

consultations were very productive, with representatives from nine Canadian federal departments, two Canadian organizations, and over 120 participants from both sides, covering a broad range of topics such as: the importance of trade and investment; agricultural market access; cooperation on Indigenous affairs; green economy; supply chain security; Intellectual Policy dialogue; export controls; education; and science, technology and innovation collaboration. A new MOU on Canadian hydrogen energy and fuel cell technology was announced, as well as the renewal of an MOU between MITACs and Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University.

- **CANOLA WTO CASE:** On December 8, the WTO dispute settlement panel adopted a partial timetable and working procedures for the handling of Canada's dispute settlement case with China on canola seed exports. Canada's first written submission will be due on January 6, 2022, with China's response and third-party submissions due on March 17 and 31, respectively. The first substantive meeting and third-party sessions are scheduled for the week of May 9-13.

s.13(1)

s.15(1)

## HONG KONG

- **UK REPORT:** On December 14, the UK released its six-month report on Hong Kong (January to June 2021), as part of its series of reports to Parliament. It criticizes China for its use of the National Security Law to repress opposition politicians, free press, and civil society.
- **JIMMY LAI SENTENCED:** On December 13, former owner of Apple Daily Jimmy Lai was sentenced to 13 months in jail for promoting participation in last year's banned Tiananmen vigil. Two other defendants convicted, lawyer Chow Hang-tung and former reporter Gwyneth Ho, were sentenced to 12 and six months respectively for participating in the vigil.

## TAIWAN

- **VISIT BY FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIANS:** On December 14, six French lawmakers, led by Député Francois de Rugy, arrived in Taiwan for a five-day visit. President Tsai Ing-Wen told the parliamentarians that Taiwan hopes for progress on trade talks with the EU next year when France takes over the bloc's presidency, and that democracies must work together in the face of authoritarianism.

## COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

- **LITHUANIA ROW:** On December 17, *Reuters* reported that China pressured German car parts company Continental to stop using components made in Lithuania.
  - o On December 15, Lithuanian withdrew all its diplomatic staff and dependents in China "for consultations". This follows the downgrade in diplomatic relations by Beijing last month after the opening of the Taiwan Representative Office in Vilnius, and concerns over the accreditation status of Lithuanian diplomats in China.
- **MANDATE LETTERS:** On December 17, Robert Fife and Bill Curry noted in *The Globe and Mail* that there is no mention of China in PM Trudeau's mandate letter to MINA, although she was told to deepen partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. The mandate letter to Innovation Minister Champagne made no mention of when Ottawa will announce whether it will ban Huawei from Canada's 5G network, although it was mentioned that ministers would be working on a national cybersecurity strategy to deter cyber threats.
- **U.S. SANCTIONS:** On December 16, the U.S. announced that it would impose new sanctions on several Chinese biotech and surveillance companies and government entities, prohibiting American companies from selling components to the entities without a license.
  - o On December 15, President Biden signed a new Executive Order "Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade" which designates sanctions for 25 actors (10 individuals and 15 entities) for their role drug trafficking. This includes four Chinese companies and one individual and their activities in fentanyl, opioid, and steroid production.



- **CANADIAN POLICY:** On December 16, David Pratt, former Defense Minister, wrote in the *Hill Times* that China and Russia's interest in Taiwan and Ukraine has "eerie parallels" with the political turmoil in the late 1930's, that we "need to be crystal clear in our intent to defend democracy" and "match our words with action".
  - o On December 11, Konrad Yakabuski wrote (fr) in *Le Devoir* that with the two Michaels home, Canada has no reason to be timid towards China, especially with our allies losing patience, noting U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Cohen's strong comments last week.
- **MOROCCO UYGHUR ACTIVIST:** on December 16, a Moroccan court ruled that Yidiresi Aishan, an ethnic Uyghur can be extradited to China for alleged "terrorist acts". The Committee Against Torture is preparing a letter to the Government of Morocco to be delivered by the end of the week, to seek to suspend the extradition treaty while they assess the claim.
- **AMBASSADOR CONG:** On December 15, Ambassador Cong Peiwu published an article in the *Hill Times* on China's historical commitment to "peace, harmony, and positive relationships". Cong presented a list of "facts" on China, including showing "restraint" in the South China Sea, being a promoter of world peace, achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, active participation in inter-governmental organizations, and commitment to "protecting our national dignity and national interests".
  - o On December 10, Ambassador Cong Peiwu held (chn) a virtual press conference on China's achievements in democracy and human rights. Ambassador Cong spoke about China's "full democracy process", and said, in response to the U.S.' Summit for Democracy, that the U.S. is responsible for "encouraging division across the world", and has caused suffering in its wars in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, and Syria. He called for the U.S., Canada, and other countries to reflect on their own human rights records, and claimed that "the treatment of Canada's Indigenous communities and the state of their living environment are concerning".
- **MILITARY SECRETS CASE:** On December 15, an Ontario judge dropped a case involving Qing Quentin Huang, a Canadian engineer who allegedly attempted to pass on sensitive details about Canada's shipbuilding procurement strategy to Chinese diplomats in 2013 according to the RCMP. The grant of stay was based on "unreasonable delay", according to Superior Court Justice Michael Dambrot.
- **XI PUTIN MEETING:** On December 15, President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin met virtually. Xi said that China and Russia should safeguard each others' national security interests, and backed Russia's attempts to get the U.S. to guarantee that NATO will not expand eastward or deploy weapons systems in Ukraine and other countries on Russia's border. Xi told Putin that "certain international forces" are interfering in the internal affairs of China and Russia under the guise of democracy. The two leaders also discussed forming an "independent financial infrastructure" to reduce their reliance on Western banks and their vulnerability to punitive measures from the West, and floated a possible three-way summit with India.
- **U.K. NATIONAL CYBER STRATEGY:** On December 15, the U.K. released its National Cyber Strategy for 2022. The policy identified China as a "highly sophisticated actor" "with increasing ambition to project its influence beyond its borders and a proven interest in the UK's commercial secrets", and noted that "how China evolves in the next decade will probably be the single biggest driver of the UK's future cyber security".
- **U.S. UYGHUR BILL:** On December 16, the U.S. Senate passed the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act, which bans imports from Xinjiang unless companies can prove that the goods were not made with forced labour. The bill was passed earlier this week by Congress and will be sent to the President for signature.
- **BLINKEN COMMENTS:** On December 14, during a visit to Southeast Asia, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the U.S. would advance a free and open Indo-Pacific, and deepen treaty alliances, defense, and intelligence capabilities with partners in the region. Blinken also warned that its allies and South China Sea claimants would push back against any unlawful action.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS:** On December 13, *The New York Times* reported on China using Western YouTube influencers to spread its propaganda. The article examined several influencers, and linked their content to state media. According to the article, state run media and local governments have funded these influencers trips, often to parts of the country where the authorities have blocked foreign journalists from reporting.
  - o On December 10, the Australia Strategic Policy Institute released a report about how China uses foreign social media influencers to shape and push messages about Xinjiang domestically and internationally.
- **INFLUENCE IN ASIA:** On December 13, AidData published a report analyzing China's efforts to cultivate and deepen economic, social, and network ties with 13 countries in South and Central Asia (SCA). According to the



report, these ties have the potential to both empower and constrain SCA countries, while threatening to diminish regional rivals such as Russia, India, and the U.S.

- **OLYMPIC BOYCOTT:** On December 13, journalist Michael Harris wrote in the *Hill Times* that the decision not to send diplomats to the 2022 Olympics is “phony virtue signaling” and that our athletes should make a concerted decision not to participate. Freedom is under grave threat, but it is “bad for business”, he wrote.
  - o On December 13, Sheila Reid, former Canadian Olympian, contended in the *Toronto Star* that diplomatic positions rarely translate to legitimate political change, citing the 1980 and subsequent 1984 Olympics boycotts over Afghanistan.
- **INNOVATION COOPERATION CONFERENCE:** On December 11-12, the China-Africa Innovation Cooperation Conference was held in Wuhan. Hosted by the PRC Ministry of Science and Technology and the Hubei Provincial People’s Government, the conference focused on the implementation of the BRI and the promotion of China-Africa innovation cooperation.
- **G7:** On December 11-12, the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting was held in Liverpool. The representatives discussed the situations in Hong Kong and Xinjiang, in the East and South China Seas, and in the Taiwan Strait, as well as coercive economic policies. According to the EU readout, China represents a “strategic and ideological challenge”.

#### KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- **HONG KONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION (DECEMBER 19):** Hong Kong will hold its first Legislative Council election since the implementation of the National Security Law and changes in the electoral system ensuring that only “patriots” can govern the city ([link](#)).

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