

# Trump's Asian trade battle could benefit Canada

**ASIA-PACIFIC** | A bigger role in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free-trade deal a possibility for Ottawa

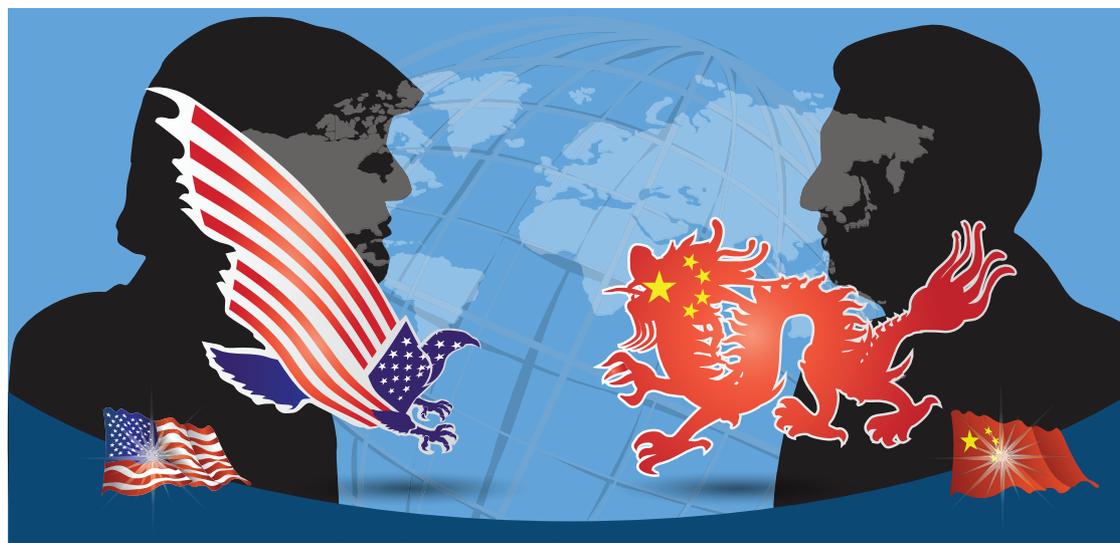
BY CHUCK CHIANG  
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Canada may be able to extract advantages from a potential trade war between the United States and China, some observers say.

But they cautioned that, even with some of the benefits Canada can glean from the friction between the U.S. and China – which may be contributing to U.S. President Donald Trump's wavering stance on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as a fallback – the main goal for Ottawa should remain keeping intact the rule-based global trade system, centred around the World Trade Organization (WTO).

One analyst said the best way to do so is for Canada to re-engage China on a rule-based free-trade agreement (FTA) as soon as possible.

"That should be priority No. 1," said Hugh Stephens, principal at Victoria-based Asia-Pacific policy consultancy Trans-Pacific Connections and the former executive-in-residence at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. "If we start negotiations with China on a rule-based FTA, that would be an Article 24



A looming trade war between the U.S. and China could bring trade advantages to Canada, experts say | AL

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bilateral agreement that's consistent with WTO principles. That's one more way of engaging China under the rule-based system, and it also would secure a preferential advantage into the Chinese market."

The danger, Stephens said, is that the current dispute, largely spurred by Trump's announcement last month to place US\$50 billion in tariffs on select Chinese imports, involves two of the

biggest players in global trade. If both Washington and Beijing walk away from the WTO-driven multilateral trade system, it could create toxic trading environments for all nations as bilateral, retaliatory trade actions replace multi-party mediation.

That's why a Canada-China FTA under WTO rules would at least help keep Beijing within the existing realm of global trade rules, Stephens argued.

"The United States is basically going outside the WTO in taking unilateral actions against China," he said. "China has so far somewhat reluctantly played by the international rules – something that they've said they will continue to do. At the same time, China is also forging its own consensus centred around [its One Belt, One Road infrastructure initiative], so if the largest player like the U.S. that has been one

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Beijing has responded to Trump's tariff announcement with its own plans to raise tariffs on U.S. soybeans, beef and other products. The soybean is an especially contentious item, since the crop's export, valued at US\$14 billion per year, is the United States' biggest export to China.

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## POLY CULTURE NORTH AMERICA

SPONSORED CONTENT

### Poly Culture brings largest *zisha* delegation with astounding artworks to Canada

Poly Culture North America launched an exhibition, *Essence in Zisha: Eastern Intangible Cultural Heritage of Yixing Stoneware*, on February 17 in downtown Vancouver, presenting nearly 300 pieces of *zisha* artworks from 200 contemporary artisans and highlighting 10 national masters in China. This exhibition, which will last until May 31, features an unparalleled collection of contemporary *zisha* artworks, showcasing the unique Chinese culture and lifestyle.

As the local organizer of this *zisha* exhibition, Poly Culture North America has been committed to bilateral cultural exchange and international co-operation between China and North America. Since its opening, Poly Culture North America has successfully held nine significant exhibitions, such as *The Antiques of the Qianlong Period: A Mirror Reflecting a Chinese Emperor's Attitudes to the Past and the West* and *Exquisite Chinese Jades Throughout the Ages* exhibiting the magnificent



Featured *zisha* teapots of the exhibition *Essence in Zisha: Eastern Intangible Cultural Heritage of Yixing Stoneware*

cultural heritage of China. In addition, world-class performances were also brought to Vancouver, including the Vancouver debut performance for the China Philharmonic Orchestra and the 12 Girls Band 2018 Chinese New Year Concert.

As an essential part of Poly Culture North America's celebration of Canada-China Year of Tourism 2018, a series of events for this *zisha* exhibition are around the corner. In early May, a cultural exchange delegation of *zisha* artists will visit Canada. Poly Culture North America, along with Shi Juntang, vice-chairman

of the China Ceramic Industry Association; and Xu Jianrong, executive vice-president of the China Academy of Art *Zisha* Institute, will jointly lead a delegation of over 40 contemporary renowned *zisha* artists, including five national-level *zisha* masters. They will share the unique charm of traditional Chinese craftsmanship as well as the stories behind the creative process with local teapot enthusiasts and collectors. Vancouver is the first stop of their tour, followed by Victoria, Calgary and Toronto.

It is the first time that such a large group of renowned *zisha* artists will visit Canada, presenting art enthusiasts and collectors the unseen hands behind those prominent *zisha* masterpieces. Their great influence and superb craftsmanship will bring profound impact to the local communities as well as Canada's cultural industry.

Originating in the mid-Northern Song Dynasty, the teapot made of *zisha* clay has existed for more than 1,000 years. With the popularity

of *zisha* stoneware, it serves not only as tea ware, but also as an art carrier of the potter's emotions and creativities. Listed as a national intangible cultural heritage, the age-old craftsmanship of *zisha* stoneware remains esoteric and mysterious.

Following this *zisha* master delegation's visit to Canada, Poly Culture North America will organize other events for this exhibition, such as *Zisha Art and Culture Salon*, a demonstration of the *zisha* teapot-making process, and VIP tea-tasting activities, before the end of this exhibition on May 31. Please visit [www.polyculture.us](http://www.polyculture.us) for more information.

**Exhibition details:**

**Address:** 100 – 905 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC

**Date:** February 17 to May 31, 2018

**Admission is free of charge.**

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To learn more, visit [www.polyculture.us](http://www.polyculture.us)