

WEBVTT

00:00:04.180 --> 00:00:10.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of The Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host Colin Robertson.

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<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode, recorded on June the 9th, we speak with former Sherpas, now Senators, Peter Boehm and Peter Harder.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Their participation in summits extends from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to Justin Trudeau.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Both served in the Foreign Service and became Deputy Ministers before they were summoned to the Senate.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm has served as Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee and Peter Harder as its Deputy Chair and earlier as Government Representative.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Welcome Peter and Peter.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Glad to be here, Colin.

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<v SPEAKER_1>For listeners, next week, Prime Minister Carney will host the G7 Summit in Kananaskis.

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<v SPEAKER_1>It is the second time the Alberta town on the foothills of the Rockies has hosted the top table of the developed democracies.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The term summit was popularized by Winston Churchill.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Churchill believed the powers of persuasion were best applied when meeting his counterparts face to face.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Things were easier to solve.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Putting the pieces together and then preparing the script and draft communicate is the role of the Sherpa, the guide who takes the leaders to the summits.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Some have compared their work as to that of an impresario choreographing a Broadway musical, but that doesn't do justice to the Sherpa's full role.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The Sherpa's job is not just to make music out of this cacophony of different players and their interests, but to ensure that the show stays on the road.

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<v SPEAKER_1>For the G7, what is at stake are the great issues of war and peace, social reform, economic prosperity, and the health of the globe and its citizens.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So let's begin.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm, because you were the longer time Sherpa, how would you define the role of the Sherpa?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, it can go two different ways.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The role of the Sherpa, when you're playing the away game, in other words, when there's a summit taking place in another country, is relatively easy because you basically worry about the negotiation aspect, getting the right direction from the Prime Minister, keeping your team going, looking at initiatives, negotiating them through your own bureaucracy, that sort of thing.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But when we are the host, and this one will be the seventh one where we have hosted a summit, it's an entirely different game because you're also responsible for the organization.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Ultimately, for all aspects of logistics, for discussion and collaboration with subnational entities, so provinces, municipalities, that sort of thing, and of course, security.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You get involved, this is not always high diplomacy and

negotiation, but you have to make sure the thing actually comes off, that you have the funds to do it, and that you have everyone on board domestically.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Harder, this is, as Peter Boehm says, this is a big role and often you have another assignment, and both of your cases as Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

00:03:18.540 --> 00:03:22.480

<v SPEAKER_1>How did you manage the two pieces?

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<v SPEAKER_1>I can see where they would come together, but this has got to be really in many ways a full-time occupation, like managing a miniature government department.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, thanks for the question, Colin.

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<v SPEAKER_2>When I first was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, I got advice from Don Campbell, who was a previous Deputy Minister, who said, Peter, there are two things that you must keep.

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<v SPEAKER_2>One is preserve the role of Sherpa for the G7, which became the G8, of course, and then back to the 7.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And the second was to keep your personal relationship with the Prime Minister with respect to head submission appointments.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And he was of the view that being Sherpa helped with the second, and it is the opportunity for you to work directly with the Prime Minister to advance the interests of the Government of Canada in the Sherpa relationships.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So I subscribe to that view and that it actually made doing the job of Deputy Minister easier because you had worked with and gained the trust of Prime Ministers in the course of being also their Sherpa.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And bluntly, you're also dealing with the big issues of the day.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And certainly, when I worked with the Foreign Minister Alan McCracken, what he expected from his Deputy Minister was that they had real knowledge and expertise on the big issues of the day in addition to their capacity as a manager of the department.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Exactly, Colin.

00:04:56.940 --> 00:05:16.260

<v SPEAKER_2>And you know, the Sherpa's role is not just to advance and advise the Prime Minister's interests, it's to bring the whole of government together to provide the best both advice to and coordinate the actions of the Government of Canada writ large.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I would add to that, Colin, that this also means briefing cabinet on occasion, certainly other ministers and the two key ministers, at least during my period, were always finance and foreign affairs.

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<v SPEAKER_3>There were other ministerial meetings, too.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And the goal there is to make sure that everyone is on the same page.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And then as the personal representative or Sherpa, you have that extra gravitas because they all know that you're working closely with the Prime Minister, especially as the summit date comes around, and perhaps spending more time with him than they are.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Which in many ways was the classic traditional role of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs as the principal professional advisor to the Prime Minister and the Minister on Foreign Affairs.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm, stay with me for a minute because you talked about the time that you were the host Sherpa.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Once again, we are the host Sherpa.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I think you were the host Sherpa when we did Charlevoix.

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<v SPEAKER_1>How does the host decide the agenda?

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<v SPEAKER_1>And there's a component to it of other nations to invite.

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<v SPEAKER_1>And again, there's different nations that we've invited this time.

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<v SPEAKER_1>How does that work and how do you come to those conclusions as the, since the Sherpa who has to make all this, put it all together?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, thanks Colin.

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<v SPEAKER_3>First off in 2018, the government was in a majority position and that makes a difference too because the planning function is easier.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And in fact, we started in 2017 right after the Italian Summit, which incidentally was Donald Trump's first one.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And then it's a case of setting out what we would think the Prime Minister would want, having a conversation with him and then launching various initiatives.

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<v SPEAKER_3>To some degree, you inherit what happened at the last summit.

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<v SPEAKER_3>You're buffeted by events that are, that are current.

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<v SPEAKER_3>If you look back 2008, 2009, it was the sovereign debt crisis, more recently the war in Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER_3>These sorts of things.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So you have to plan for, for known, for known unknowns.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And what makes this one in Cananascus different of course is that the time to act has been really, really compressed.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And with Mr.

00:07:42.800 --> 00:07:45.080

<v SPEAKER_3>Trudeau's resignation and Mr.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Carney's, Mr.

00:07:47.040 --> 00:07:51.400

<v SPEAKER_3>Carney coming into, into the role, there wasn't really that much time.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I don't think Mr.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Trudeau wanted to take decisions on behalf of his successor in terms of who else to invite and some of the thematic issues.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So it becomes tricky for the Sherpa.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And this year as well as in other years, there are Sherpa meetings have been throughout Canada.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And that helps to inform the development of the agenda and what the leaders are actually going to discuss.

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<v SPEAKER_1>How do you pick what other nations to invite?

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<v SPEAKER_1>Because there has been the complexion, depending on the summit, can be quite different.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It depends what thematically you want to do at the end, the so-called Outreach Day, which is probably less than a day.

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<v SPEAKER_3>In the case of Charleroi, the Prime Minister wanted to have a big discussion, a pioneering discussion on the problem of ocean plastics.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And so it was fairly easy to invite a number of small island states, but other countries who were quite involved in this issue, I'm thinking in particular of Kenya and South Africa.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And that led to a United Nations initiative, several conferences that were co-sponsored by Canada and Kenya on this subject.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So widen it then to a few other countries that are eager and involved in that issue.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We had Argentina in 2018, we had Norway there.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So that is often the case.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And if you look at Mr.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Carney's priorities as set out just, I think, two or three days ago, it is clear that for discussion on partnerships of the future, leveraging private investment for infrastructure and the like, it would make sense to have a few countries, in addition to the G7, talking about those particular issues.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Also, Energy Security is another one that he had selected.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So that's a bit of the background there.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The summits, in a sense, are the culmination of a long process involving a whole series of ministerial meetings, which sometimes people don't appreciate or realize that this is year by year, and as a host takes over, this process of ministerial meetings leading to the summit comes together, and usually there's a communicate coming out of that.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Harder, do you want to talk a little bit about negotiation of that ultimate communique, given that the ministerial meetings usually have either statements or communiques coming out of them, and how you decide on what's going to go into the ultimate communique itself?

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<v SPEAKER_1>My impression was that at least a draft is usually ready by the time the participants, the principal participants arrive at the summit.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, that's true, Colin.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The communique usually flows pretty logically from the priorities that were established by the host for the focus of the meeting.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So in my day, for example, the two issues that dominated throughout the summits that I attended were Africa debt relief and HIV AIDS in Africa.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The second was with respect to climate action, earlier stages of coordinating climate response.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The summits, in that sense, advanced both of those issues with carefully worded and negotiated communiques that established in each case and advanced in collective action with respect to these two major issues.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That defined who was at the table, who was invited, and also advanced the coordination and the policy options that were collectively endorsed.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The text of which became quite heavily negotiated in the last Sherpa meeting before the leaders, which would produce the draft.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But it was often the night before the leaders that we actually concluded those negotiations.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And in some respects, that was to pressurize, I guess, and seek further compromise from colleagues who were perhaps reluctant to sign on to advancing these issues quite at the pace that others would have wished.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So often, the Canadian Sherpa's role was to seek to

advance the consensus that pushed these issues forward as best we could.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And those were the issues of my time.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So these face-to-face sessions really do make a difference.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The Sherpas can take the communicate to a point, but it's getting together the leaders that makes the difference.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, again, when you're hosting it and you are chairing the process, Canada as the chair, obviously, we have to look and to find compromise.

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<v SPEAKER_3>What Peter was referring to was the usual all-night sessions.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We had two of them at Charlevoix to try to agree on a communicate.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We did not get consensus.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We were significantly apart on climate change.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The US in an exceptional move insisted on having a separate paragraph pertinent only to the US.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We did not agree to what the US wanted, but that paragraph is there.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Similarly, on Iran and the JCPOA at the time, we had different ideas.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But the big sticking point was the reference to the

rules-based international order.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And that's where we had a debate right until the end, and where the leaders, in fact, had to decide what language they wanted.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And there's the famous photograph of Donald Trump sitting there and being stared at by other leaders.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I question the value of communiques.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I don't think there is going to be one in Kananaskis and I think going back to Kananaskis G8, there could just be a chair's summary at the end.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Or as the French did the same thing in 2019 following us.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But instead, look for separate statements or declarations on certain issues.

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<v SPEAKER_3>President Zelensky is going to be in attendance.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So there's probably going to be a separate statement on Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER_3>There may be a separate statement on the global economy, growth, infrastructure, and the like.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think this is what we might be expecting going ahead.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And perhaps something too that recognizes the participation of other countries on the outreach day.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I think the amount of labor that is involved to try to get a consensus document in the current climate would really mean a race to the bottom in terms of lowest common denominator and also some fundamental disagreements.

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<v SPEAKER_3>On tariffs, for example.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We're going to link to the interview you did with Lisa Van Dusen in Policy Magazine.

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<v SPEAKER_1>But Peter Boehm, you had personal experience with Donald Trump, who's coming back to this summit, we think.

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<v SPEAKER_1>How much of a challenge was dealing with Donald Trump?

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<v SPEAKER_1>And any advice you have for those who are going to deal with this coming summit?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, the Prime Minister has referred to him as a transformational president.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That was to his face in the Oval Office.

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<v SPEAKER_3>I would say that in terms of multilateralism, he is also a transformational president.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So just how the tariff issue is going to be discussed is anyone's guess, I suppose.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Usually at these meetings, and Peter will remember this as well, the first discussion item is the global economy.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And the chair usually punts it to the president of the United States to begin that particular discussion.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That was the case in 2018 as well.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think President Trump appreciated that.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And but as we went further, he lost some interest.

00:16:20.860 --> 00:16:23.040
<v SPEAKER_3>So that is the challenge.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think also anything on global institutions, all communiques in recent years have referred to strengthening the World Trade Organization, and making sure its appellate body is functioning.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But no one is talking about the WTO any more.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And in fact, the rules-based international order, the UN, international development, all of those are critical themes that may or may not come forward, even though you will have the presence of the UN Secretary General, and also the NATO Secretary General.

00:17:01.020 --> 00:17:10.680
<v SPEAKER_3>So it will be interesting to see how the multilateral aspect works when in fact, Donald Trump prefers one-on-one bilateral conversations.

00:17:14.860 --> 00:17:18.280
<v SPEAKER_4>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of The Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:17:18.280 --> 00:17:22.880
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00:17:38.660 --> 00:17:43.080
<v SPEAKER_1>I'm going to come back to multilateralism and its continuing utility.

00:17:43.080 --> 00:17:48.520
<v SPEAKER_1>But Peter Harder, what does Canada bring to the table, both as host and as participant?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think historically, Canada has viewed its

participation in the G7, to begin with, as the high table of its multilateral engagement.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It sought to join and was welcomed to that table and has played an active part on both forming the agenda and advancing the collective work of the G7, G8.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So it's the ability to have something to say and to put concrete proposals forward that advance Canada and the collective action on the themes of the day.

00:18:33.520 --> 00:19:01.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So, for example, in the period in which I was active, Canada very much led the way on Africa debt relief and sought to coordinate and work with the multilateral institutions involved in that, as well as the individual lead countries, to ensure that we had collective action which advanced Africa debt relief.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Similarly, with respect to HIV AIDS and the coordination of both the development and distribution, of vaccines was done, interestingly, with very much the support of the George W.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Bush presidency on those themes.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And on climate action, it was often the role of Canada to advance the language that would link the American, perhaps, reluctance with the European wish to move further and farther on language.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That's not always the case.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But I do think that being there and advancing the collective issues of the time, creates a certain credibility for Canada's leadership on these issues.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm, is there a Canadian dynamic that we bring to these summits that were kind of the consistent themes that we champion over the years, certainly in the time you were a summit, you were a surprise, I should say?

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<v SPEAKER_3>I think it is basically our multilateral vocation, so our respect for the international rules of the road.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We bring that forward a lot.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I don't know about Peter Harder's experience, but it happened to me a couple of times.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It would be 3 in the morning, we would have an impasse on something, and someone would turn to me and say, okay, it's time, and I'd say it's time for what?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, the Great Canadian Compromise Initiative.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So of course, that's what we do.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But I think also we have led on a few files, and I recall at Charleroi, we were pushing hard to establish a fund for education of women and girls in conflict zones.

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<v SPEAKER_3>We had hoped for 400 million for that, and once the World Bank kicked in, we had 3.2 billion.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So that was a major success.

00:21:09.300 --> 00:21:17.780

<v SPEAKER_3>You can go back to Stephen Harper as well in 2010 with a maternal newborn child health initiative, which is still rolling.

00:21:17.780 --> 00:21:26.860

<v SPEAKER_3>So there are things that we can bring and negotiate that the others might find a little bit more difficult.

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<v SPEAKER_3>The other, and Peter mentioned it, is the outreach to Africa, which has continued.

00:21:32.160 --> 00:21:39.520

<v SPEAKER_3>It's continued in different sorts of ways, but it has been a feature, I think, of our approach.

00:21:40.380 --> 00:22:03.700

<v SPEAKER_3>So all that to say that this year, if you look at the communiques and declarations coming out of both the foreign ministers

meeting in March in Charlevoix, and the more recent one of finance ministers in Banff, there's actually a lot of meat there in terms of forwarding this ad referendum to leaders.

00:22:03.700 --> 00:22:17.360

<v SPEAKER_3>But even as they stand, these are valuable contributions on a lot of really important current issues, particularly artificial intelligence, which is going to be a major theme that Canon asks.

00:22:17.360 --> 00:22:19.540

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm, you talked about multilateralism.

00:22:21.800 --> 00:22:26.980

<v SPEAKER_1>After 50 years, does the G7 still have relevance?

00:22:26.980 --> 00:22:29.360

<v SPEAKER_1>And how would you improvement?

00:22:29.360 --> 00:22:38.020

<v SPEAKER_1>And then the bigger question is, multilateralism, if the United States has a leader who doesn't want to play, does it still work?

00:22:39.480 --> 00:22:43.860

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, those are rather fundamental questions.

00:22:43.860 --> 00:22:46.680

<v SPEAKER_3>To the first one, that's the easier one.

00:22:46.680 --> 00:22:50.780

<v SPEAKER_3>And we get it all the time, especially in our country.

00:22:50.780 --> 00:22:51.840

<v SPEAKER_3>Why the G7?

00:22:51.840 --> 00:22:53.700

<v SPEAKER_3>Why should we be there?

00:22:53.700 --> 00:22:55.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Isn't it past its prime?

00:22:55.620 --> 00:23:00.960

<v SPEAKER_3>If it were past its prime, the leaders would have decided a long time ago, this is not worth the bother.

00:23:02.840 --> 00:23:04.300

<v SPEAKER_3>It is expensive.

00:23:04.300 --> 00:23:15.260

<v SPEAKER_3>On the other hand, leaders, and there will be some new

leaders coming, Japan, Germany, UK, Stammer, this will be his first G7 summit.

00:23:15.260 --> 00:23:18.360

<v SPEAKER_3>They value informal dialogue.

00:23:18.360 --> 00:23:24.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Sure, they can authorize a communication or statements that they haven't really negotiated that much.

00:23:24.240 --> 00:23:29.760

<v SPEAKER_3>But it is this dialogue in the collective or one-on-one.

00:23:29.800 --> 00:23:33.880

<v SPEAKER_3>There will be a lot of bilateral meetings at the Canon Ascas.

00:23:33.880 --> 00:23:37.380

<v SPEAKER_3>That really underscores the value.

00:23:37.380 --> 00:23:55.840

<v SPEAKER_3>Now to your second question, if the US is reluctant to participate, entering a period of isolationism, it then falls, of course, to the other members to continue nurturing the body and bringing in the US as well.

00:23:55.840 --> 00:24:02.060

<v SPEAKER_3>So the test will be, it's France next year and it's the United States after that.

00:24:02.060 --> 00:24:08.440

<v SPEAKER_3>The test will be if the US sees this as valuable and useful.

00:24:08.440 --> 00:24:12.820

<v SPEAKER_3>The US participates in many international bodies.

00:24:12.820 --> 00:24:22.560

<v SPEAKER_3>But I'm cautiously optimistic that they will see a value for this sort of discussion, even if we can't agree on everything.

00:24:22.560 --> 00:24:26.860

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Harder, the same question with a certain variation, multilateralism.

00:24:27.400 --> 00:24:36.300

<v SPEAKER_1>If the United States doesn't want to play for the democracies, more important and if so, who leads?

00:24:36.300 --> 00:24:46.040

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think Colin, that the temperature of American engagement and multilateralism has gone up and down over the years.

00:24:46.040 --> 00:24:52.660

<v SPEAKER_2>In that sense, Trump is perhaps the highest point of that temperature rising.

00:24:52.660 --> 00:24:56.180

<v SPEAKER_2>But it's not been perfect sailing before that.

00:24:56.780 --> 00:25:09.220

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the real answer to your question is, and Peter Boehm eluded to that, is G7 works because leaders want to come and leaders want to invite others.

00:25:09.220 --> 00:25:11.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So the G7 has never been just seven.

00:25:11.780 --> 00:25:15.280

<v SPEAKER_2>It's had a multilateral representation.

00:25:15.280 --> 00:25:33.020

<v SPEAKER_2>The Secretary General of the UN usually, sometimes the head of NATO, Secretary General of NATO, sometimes the head of the various regional authorities or health, WTO, WHO, that sort of thing, depending on the agenda.

00:25:33.020 --> 00:25:45.560

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's the convening power of the G7 through their participation individually in these organizations that adds to the credibility of the meeting.

00:25:45.560 --> 00:25:51.160

<v SPEAKER_2>So if you have something important to launch, the G7 is the table.

00:25:51.500 --> 00:26:05.840

<v SPEAKER_2>It's interesting, in my day again, going back, at the Italian Presidency, just before our Presidency, interestingly in Kananaskis, we established at the G7 the Digital Opportunities Task Force.

00:26:05.840 --> 00:26:14.240

<v SPEAKER_2>And this was all about how to advance and accelerate the digital capacity of developing countries.

00:26:14.240 --> 00:26:22.240

<v SPEAKER_2>That was co-chaired by the Italian Minister of Communication and by me as the Canadian Sherpa, reporting to Kananaskis.

00:26:22.240 --> 00:26:31.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, that was both outreach and using the leverage of the G7 to advance a critical area in a third part of the world.

00:26:33.180 --> 00:26:41.340

<v SPEAKER_2>The work of the G7 is relevant because its work is relevant to others and to the G7 itself.

00:26:41.340 --> 00:26:51.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'm optimistic that as long as we have something to say and an action plan to advance, we will have the G7.

00:26:52.800 --> 00:26:59.760

<v SPEAKER_1>Of the summits that both of you have participated in, would you put the G7 at the summit of the summits?

00:26:59.760 --> 00:27:05.240

<v SPEAKER_1>We have Francophonie, Commonwealth, G20, APEC, NATO summits.

00:27:05.240 --> 00:27:07.640

<v SPEAKER_1>We've got the EU summit coming up.

00:27:07.640 --> 00:27:10.800

<v SPEAKER_2>I think it's the high table most of the time.

00:27:10.800 --> 00:27:11.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm?

00:27:13.240 --> 00:27:15.340

<v SPEAKER_3>Without question, without question.

00:27:15.520 --> 00:27:25.940

<v SPEAKER_3>It's the most important one and it's the most significant one, whether we are the eighth or the ninth largest economy on any given day, depending on the price of oil.

00:27:28.520 --> 00:27:35.120

<v SPEAKER_3>We see this as a very useful extension of our foreign policy.

00:27:35.120 --> 00:27:41.080

<v SPEAKER_2>Peter, I think we should also add that it's not just the two days of the heads of government meetings.

00:27:41.560 --> 00:27:41.980

<v SPEAKER_3>Absolutely.

00:27:41.980 --> 00:27:54.920

<v SPEAKER_2>It's the ability of leaders to call each other through the G7 network throughout the course of the year on issues that were touched on or advanced in the summit process.

00:27:55.200 --> 00:27:56.140

<v SPEAKER_3>That's a really important point.

00:27:56.140 --> 00:27:58.640

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a network, it's not an event.

00:27:58.640 --> 00:28:16.600

<v SPEAKER_3>That's a really important point, Peter, because in the last few years, it was just my last particular summit, we could also do secure audiovisual calls, and the leaders would meet that way on crises and increasingly foreign ministers.

00:28:16.600 --> 00:28:20.800

<v SPEAKER_3>There used to be one foreign ministers meeting per cycle.

00:28:20.800 --> 00:28:27.740

<v SPEAKER_3>I think we're probably going to have a second one after the summit, and there will be ministerial meetings afterwards.

00:28:28.420 --> 00:28:31.500

<v SPEAKER_3>Peter, you mentioned how we follow Italy in the rotation.

00:28:31.500 --> 00:28:34.300

<v SPEAKER_3>Last year, the Italians had 22 ministerial meetings.

00:28:34.820 --> 00:28:37.440

<v SPEAKER_3>Now, I wouldn't suggest that we do that in Canada.

00:28:37.440 --> 00:28:45.520

<v SPEAKER_3>I think there'd be a lot of questions asked, but it goes to the point that there is a lot of activity that is below the waterline.

00:28:45.520 --> 00:28:58.760

<v SPEAKER_3>Working groups, whether it's on anti-terrorism, whether it's the Financial Action Task Force, which looks at money laundering and corruption issues, there's an awful lot of work that goes all year round.

00:28:58.760 --> 00:29:08.760

<v SPEAKER_3>So there's an ecosystem of G7 initiatives and activities where the summit is really just the most prominent part.

00:29:08.760 --> 00:29:22.960

<v SPEAKER_1>And worth pointing out that the relationships, not just to the leader level, but Sherpa level, Sue Sherpa, and within the

bureaucracies, that's part of the glue of multilateralism that particularly important with the democracies.

00:29:22.960 --> 00:29:24.360

<v SPEAKER_1>Is that correct?

00:29:25.420 --> 00:29:27.300

<v SPEAKER_2>It's the hidden wiring, Colin.

00:29:27.300 --> 00:29:28.700

<v SPEAKER_1>It's the hidden wiring, yes.

00:29:28.700 --> 00:29:28.960

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:29:28.960 --> 00:29:34.780

<v SPEAKER_1>My final question before I ask you what you're reading, why don't you read on this one, Peter Boehm, what are you expecting from this summit?

00:29:35.880 --> 00:29:39.000

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I'm optimistic.

00:29:39.000 --> 00:29:54.340

<v SPEAKER_3>I think there will be a declaration that will show some unanimity of the membership and as well, the advantage of having invited some other countries to participate.

00:29:54.340 --> 00:29:59.000

<v SPEAKER_3>I think it's a great leadership opportunity for Prime Minister Carney.

00:29:59.980 --> 00:30:03.100

<v SPEAKER_3>He is familiar with summits like this.

00:30:03.100 --> 00:30:09.600

<v SPEAKER_3>In fact, he's represented a couple countries, but never at the head of government level.

00:30:09.600 --> 00:30:14.640

<v SPEAKER_3>So it's a leadership opportunity for him as well as a challenge.

00:30:14.680 --> 00:30:18.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Harder, your expectations?

00:30:20.360 --> 00:30:35.840

<v SPEAKER_2>Frankly, the summitry, I don't expect a huge breakthrough on the issues of the day, but I expect an advance of the direct conversation within the groups as well as perhaps subgroup

discussions.

00:30:35.840 --> 00:30:47.680

<v SPEAKER_2>But you cannot have a meeting today without Ukraine being part of the collective commentary and hopefully action.

00:30:47.680 --> 00:30:58.020

<v SPEAKER_2>The tariff issue and rules-based multilateral trade system has got to be part of the conversation, and I'm sure that it will.

00:30:58.020 --> 00:31:04.540

<v SPEAKER_2>You just look at who is there and who is advancing the agenda.

00:31:04.540 --> 00:31:10.000

<v SPEAKER_2>And as Peter Boehm referenced, our Prime Minister has been around these tables for some time.

00:31:10.580 --> 00:31:19.280

<v SPEAKER_2>He was the Finance Sherpa in my period when I was the Sherpa for the G8s, G7.

00:31:19.280 --> 00:31:27.420

<v SPEAKER_2>And he has perfected the art of these multilateral engagements over the course of his career.

00:31:27.420 --> 00:31:42.060

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'm very confident that it will both be well-chaired and conclusions reached that may not be huge breakthroughs, but they will advance substantially on the issues of the day.

00:31:43.100 --> 00:31:43.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you.

00:31:43.640 --> 00:31:46.260

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Harder, my last question, you lead on this one.

00:31:46.260 --> 00:31:48.940

<v SPEAKER_1>What are you reading or streaming these days?

00:31:48.940 --> 00:32:02.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, Colin, I've been reading Anne Applebaum and Timothy Snyder to keep me appropriately mellowed in watching the events south of us.

00:32:03.640 --> 00:32:09.500

<v SPEAKER_2>And I commend both of their recent books to your podcast.

00:32:09.500 --> 00:32:29.240

<v SPEAKER_2>I also, Karla's Choice, which is, I'm a Le Carre fan, and it's the reprise by the son of the author, of Karla, the Moscow Centre spy master.

00:32:29.240 --> 00:32:29.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Excellent.

00:32:29.700 --> 00:32:33.780

<v SPEAKER_1>Karla's Choice, On Tyranny, Freedom and Autocracy, Inc.

00:32:33.780 --> 00:32:35.300

<v SPEAKER_1>All recommended.

00:32:35.300 --> 00:32:36.300

<v SPEAKER_1>Peter Boehm, what about you?

00:32:36.300 --> 00:32:37.740

<v SPEAKER_1>What are you reading or streaming these days?

00:32:37.740 --> 00:32:51.680

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, like Peter Harder, I'm a Tim Snyder fan, and of course, we have him at the University of Toronto now, so we'll have to convince him to come to Ottawa, to meet him, to give us his wisdom.

00:32:51.680 --> 00:33:04.940

<v SPEAKER_3>But I tend in my spare time to specialize in fiction, and I'm just finishing this sprawling, huge Irish novel by Paul Murray called The Bee Sting.

00:33:04.940 --> 00:33:10.260

<v SPEAKER_3>I'm enjoying it a lot, mixed genres, dream of consciousness, other stuff.

00:33:10.360 --> 00:33:14.740

<v SPEAKER_3>It just for me is a reminder that there is another world out there too.

00:33:15.800 --> 00:33:17.400

<v SPEAKER_1>All right, The Bee Sting.

00:33:17.400 --> 00:33:18.520

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you both.

00:33:18.520 --> 00:33:21.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:33:21.400 --> 00:33:26.180

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by former Sherpas and current Senators Peter Boehm and Peter Harder.

00:33:26.180 --> 00:33:30.020

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00:33:30.020 --> 00:33:33.880

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00:33:33.880 --> 00:33:39.700

<v SPEAKER_1>My thanks go out to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:33:39.700 --> 00:33:41.160

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:33:41.160 --> 00:33:43.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.