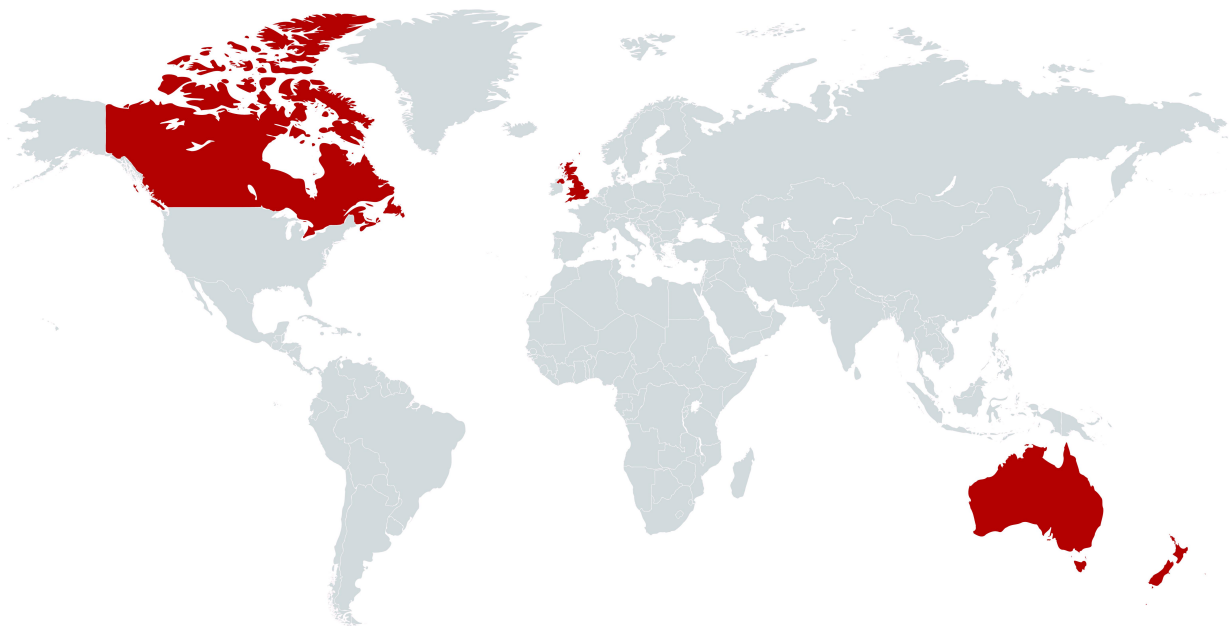




CANZUK International

“The Future of Post-Brexit Britain”

Recommendations for Migration, Trade and Foreign Policy cooperation between Canada,
Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom



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Introduction

CANZUK International is a non-profit organisation committed to the introduction of facilitated migration, free trade and coordinated foreign policy between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom - the “CANZUK” countries.

Facilitated migration between these four nations implies the ability of citizens to relocate and indefinitely remain without the requirement of visas or work permits, providing they meet specific character, health and security requirements. Free trade would involve the establishment of a multilateral trade agreement between these four nations with the removal of customs duties and other barriers to commerce as a priority objective, while foreign policy cooperation would focus on collaboration with respect to judicial, defence, intelligence and constitutional matters.

In addition, these countries share common socioeconomic bonds which would provide a high likelihood of collaborative success, including similar cultures, Commonwealth ancestry, the same Sovereign, sister parliamentary democracies and a common language. This is complimentary to economic similarities, including progressive economic growth rates, stable inflation and unemployment rates, and highly developed health and educational services.

Facilitated migration

CANZUK International is committed to the introduction of facilitated migration based upon the current Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement (TTTA) that exists between Australia and New Zealand; an informal agreement that allows free movement for eligible citizens between the two nations.

Unlike freedom of movement within the European Union, the TTTA provides Australian and New Zealand citizens with the opportunity to move freely, providing (and without exception) that they meet specific criteria with respect to criminal, health and security requirements. Because it is an informal arrangement, this allows each nation to adapt specific terms of the agreement to current demands, but overall, facilitated migration for individuals remains constant and unhindered. It also provides each of Australia’s and New Zealand’s governments a level of autonomy that is not seen in the European Union, as the TTTA is mutually recognised between the two nations as opposed to being enforced by a central, supranational authority.

Free trade

Furthermore, CANZUK International is committed to the introduction of a multilateral free trade agreement between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, based upon the current Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) that also exists between Australia and New Zealand. As trade is a priority for the British government as the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, a trading relationship between the CANZUK countries would not only provide for the removal of customs duties and barriers to commerce between each of these nations, but

provide its constituent members more collective bargaining power in dealing with larger trading partners such as the USA, China, India and even the European Union itself.

As the CER functions as a pre-existing template for successful trade relations between like-minded countries, it is commonsensical for the United Kingdom to focus on negotiating an accession agreement to this arrangement with Australia and New Zealand, just as many senior government officials in both countries have recommended.

Foreign policy

CANZUK International is also committed to promoting greater cooperation between the four countries on matters of foreign policy, including education, defence and intelligence.

The 'Five Eyes' agreement between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America has been highly effective in gathering signals, military and human intelligence, and provides a useful starting point for a more comprehensive diplomatic alliance for the CANZUK nations, which would compliment the work of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Such an association would enjoy a more balanced relationship with the United States, and collectively, these countries could be global rather than merely regional players in the geopolitical arena.

In addition, a coordinated foreign policy for the CANZUK nations would facilitate humanitarian support for the developing Commonwealth realms in the Caribbean and Pacific. Such projects could extend to educational schemes, modelled on Rhodes Scholarships and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The already significant collaboration in the staffing of police, peacekeeping and election monitoring between the developed and developing realms provides a good starting point for further cooperation. Such assistance would not only benefit countries with a common history, it would also enhance geopolitical security for all concerned.

With the adoption of such policies, we believe the United Kingdom will accomplish a valuable placement within the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement and the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement, providing greater prosperity, opportunity and security for British citizens. As the United Kingdom seeks new trading partners outside of the European Union, the adoption of facilitated migration agreements, trading arrangements and diplomatic cohesion with Canada, Australia and New Zealand are the next logical steps following Brexit.

Why Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom?

The Commonwealth (officially known as “The Commonwealth of Nations”) was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, and today, consists of 53 member states, covering more than 29,958,050 square kms of the world’s surface, and is home to over 2.3 billion people (nearly a third of the world’s population).

However, the model of CANZUK specifically limits cooperation to four of the Commonwealth’s member states; Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This is deliberate for reasons of economic and social compatibility, and can be demonstrated through analysis of economic statistics.

In general, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are more than likely to succeed and prosper under mutual trade and migration policies due to their similar socio-economic circumstances. The CANZUK nations share the same majority language, the same Sovereign (Queen Elizabeth II), the same Westminster style parliamentary system, the same common-law legal system, the same respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and the same western culture. Many have even described citizens of these countries as *“kindred peoples only divided by their passports”*.

The World Factbook Online, updated regularly by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, provides statistical data that demonstrates how similar Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are in terms of socio-economic factors, and why mutual migration and trade agreements between these countries would succeed:



<p style="text-align: center;">Canada</p> <p>English speakers (population): 58.7% Life expectancy from birth: 81.9 years Population: 35,362,905 Population growth rate: 0.74% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$1.532 trillion GDP per capita: \$46,200 Unemployment rate (of population): 7.1% Inflation rate: 1.6%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Australia</p> <p>English speakers (population): 76.8% Life expectancy from birth: 82.2 years Population: 22,992,654 Population growth rate: 1.05% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$1.257 trillion GDP per capita: \$48,800 Unemployment rate (of population): 5.8% Inflation rate: 1.4%</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">United Kingdom</p> <p>English speakers (population): 90.1% Life expectancy from birth: 80.7 years Population: 64,430,428 Population growth rate: 0.53% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$2.65 trillion GDP per capita: \$42,500 Unemployment rate (of population): 4.8% Inflation rate: 0.5%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Zealand</p> <p>English speakers (population): 89.8% Life expectancy from birth: 81.2 years Population: 4,474,549 Population growth rate: 0.8% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$179.4 billion GDP per capita: \$37,100 Unemployment rate (of population): 5.1% Inflation rate: 0.6%</p>

**All monetary data is converted into US dollars*

***All statistics are accurate at time of publication – September, 2018*

From the provided statistics, it is evident that Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom encompass very similar socio-economic characteristics:

- The English speaking population of each country is very high, meaning that citizens from each country could easily integrate and assimilate into any other CANZUK country and likely succeed in finding employment, housing, e.t.c.
(Canada's English speaking population is below 60% as statistics only include native English speakers, not native-French speakers who also speak English);
- Life expectancy in each country is very similar, meaning similar life-style choices and health awareness with access to quality health care;
- Unemployment rates are also similar yet low, meaning citizens of each country would have a high probability of securing employment within other CANZUK countries;
- Inflation rates are economically secure, implying stable economies across the CANZUK countries with adequate circumstances for free trade arrangements;

- GDP per capita figures are economically stable, meaning a secure living wage for citizens within CANZUK countries with respect to inflation rates and a high quality of life.

With such similarities, sharing labour resources and establishing free trade agreements would benefit the CANZUK economies significantly, allowing labour shortages to be filled from willing workers within the CANZUK nations and from an increased skills pool to advance economic growth and aggregate supply.

By taking these statistics and applying a CANZUK group average, the following results are obtained:

CANZUK Group Average

English speakers (population): 78.85% (*excluding bi-lingual French-Canadians*)
 Life expectancy from birth: 81.5 years
 Population: 31,815,134
 Population growth rate: 0.78%
 GDP (Official exchange rate): \$1.404 trillion
 GDP per capita: \$43,650
 Unemployment rate (of population): 5.7%
 Inflation rate: 1.02%

In general, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are the ideal economies to benefit from facilitated migration, free trade and mutual foreign policy, as shared socio-economic, cultural and historical similarities make the CANZUK initiative highly likely to succeed in providing travel, business and employment opportunities for citizens, along with economic growth and prosperity.

However, it is also worthwhile comparing the CANZUK nations to other countries within the Commonwealth of Nations so as to demonstrate their exclusivity with respect to formulating facilitated migration and trade policies (at least for the foreseeable future).

Various critics of the CANZUK initiative object to the exclusion of four countries in particular who are not considered as part of future migration and trade agreements; South Africa, India, Jamaica and Pakistan. These countries are frequently mentioned because of their prominence within the Commonwealth of Nations, including their population sizes, economic potential and ancestry.

However, these countries present significant problems when considered as part of migration agreements with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and this is demonstrated by statistical analysis:

<p style="text-align: center;">South Africa</p> <p>English speakers (population): 9.6% Life expectancy from birth: 63.1 years Population: 54,300,704 Population growth rate: 0.99% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$280.4 billion GDP per capita: \$13,500 Unemployment rate (of population): 26.8% Inflation rate: 6.5%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">India</p> <p>English speakers (population): N/A Life expectancy from birth: 68.5 years Population: 1,266,883,598 Population growth rate: 1.19% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$2.25 trillion GDP per capita: \$6,700 Unemployment rate (of population): 5% Inflation rate: 5.2%</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jamaica</p> <p>English speakers (population): N/A Life expectancy from birth: 73.6 years Population: 2,970,340 Population growth rate: 0.68% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$13.78 billion GDP per capita: \$9,000 Unemployment rate (of population): 13.8% Inflation rate: 2.5%</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pakistan</p> <p>English speakers (population): 8% Life expectancy from birth: 67.7 years Population: 201,995,540 Population growth rate: 1.45% GDP (Official exchange rate): \$298.1 billion GDP per capita: \$5,100 Unemployment rate (of population): 6.1% Inflation rate: 2.9%</p>

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By taking South Africa as a primary example, its compatibility respective of migration agreements with the CANZUK countries falters for the following reasons:

- With an English speaking population of only 9.6%, citizens of South Africa would face difficulty assimilating into British/Canadian/Australian/New Zealand lifestyles, and likewise if citizens within CANZUK countries were to emigrate to South Africa;
- A GDP per capita of only \$13,500 (compared to the CANZUK average of \$43,650) would see increased numbers of South African citizens emigrating for better employment, income and quality of life prospects, with not enough citizens from CANZUK countries migrating to South Africa in return. This not only puts strain on the CANZUK economies, but also causes a “brain drain” (skills shortage) within the South African economy;
- With an unemployment rate in South Africa of 26.8% (nearly five times the CANZUK average), this would also increase the likelihood of South African citizens emigrating in search of greater employment opportunities, placing strain on all economies and infrastructures involved.

Although South Africa shares history and many cultural similarities with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, it is unfortunate (yet clear) that in terms of socio-economic analysis, a migration initiative between the CANZUK countries and South Africa would not only strain the economic stability of all countries involved, but would likely result in the migration

initiative failing.

Other observations from the aforementioned statistics regarding South Africa, India, Jamaica and Pakistan include:

- English speakers (population): high numbers in the CANZUK countries, but numbers are either low or not recorded within the four additional countries. This means assimilation into the CANZUK countries would be very difficult for citizens who do not speak English, and difficult for CANZUK citizens assimilating into the four additional countries in return;
- Life expectancy from birth: above 80 years in each CANZUK country, but considerably lower in the other four countries. This implies differing lifestyle choices and lower health awareness in South Africa, India, Jamaica and Pakistan, which would place increased strain on the health care systems of the CANZUK countries and provide inadequate health care for CANZUK citizens migrating to the other four countries;
- Population: with Pakistan's population being over 6 times that of the CANZUK average, and India's being over 40 times that of the CANZUK average, a free movement initiative would see a large scale migration of citizens from these countries to CANZUK countries, placing a huge strain on all economies and infrastructures involved;
- GDP per capita: considerably higher in CANZUK countries than in the other four countries, meaning citizens from South Africa, India, Jamaica and Pakistan would likely emigrate to the CANZUK countries for higher income prospects and a greater quality of life, and in return, not enough CANZUK citizens would be willing to relocate to these countries for lower income jobs, especially with considerably higher inflation rates;
- Unemployment: between approximately 5-7% in the CANZUK countries, but considerably higher in South Africa and Jamaica, implying citizens of these countries would emigrate to the CANZUK countries in search of higher employment prospects, which in turn, would generate increased competition for labour within the CANZUK countries and skills shortages in South Africa and Jamaica.

From a socio-economic standpoint, it is clear that integrating other Commonwealth nations within a facilitated migration initiative at this time would not work. At present, additional countries (such as South Africa, India, Jamaica and Pakistan, to name a few) do not meet the economic criteria that is essential for facilitated migration to succeed, as the benefits of reciprocal migration can only be guaranteed by Commonwealth countries that are very similar in terms of socio-economic characteristics.

There is no reason why additional countries within the Commonwealth would not be able to eventually join a facilitated migration initiative, but for the foreseeable future, the CANZUK countries are so similar in terms of social, economic, cultural and historical factors, it would be folly not to promote reciprocal migration, free trade and foreign policy among these countries and observe the benefits that such arrangements would bring.

The Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement

CANZUK International seeks to form facilitated migration between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom through the already functioning Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement between Australia and New Zealand.

Not only is this agreement an informal arrangement - thereby allowing Canada and the UK to join easily - but it is also highly effective in affording Australians and New Zealanders the freedom to live and work in either country while providing efficient traveller health and character screening for the protection of each country's national security.

The Agreement

The Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement (TTTA) was implemented on March 1st 1973, and grants permission for Australians and New Zealanders to work and indefinitely reside in either country, providing the individual is:

- *a citizen of Australia or New Zealand (or permanent resident holder of Australia), with valid travel documentation; and*
- *meets specific character and health requirements as set by each of Australia's and New Zealand's immigration regulations.*

Since September 1st 1994, Australia has upheld a universal visa requirement to specifically cater for the continued free movement of New Zealanders to Australia, labelled as the "*Special Category Visa*". Under these regulations, New Zealand citizens entering Australia are given a temporary entry visa which is automatically granted (subject to health and character considerations) and recorded electronically.

Likewise, New Zealand reflects Australia's visa system, providing the automatic grant of an electronic visa to Australian citizens (and additionally, Australian permanent residency holders). Upon arrival in New Zealand, the individual is granted entry without any additional administrative requirements, such as completing visa application forms.

Restrictions

Both Australia and New Zealand place respective limitations on each others' citizens/permanent residents, generally denying individuals resident visas and entry into each others' countries if they have been:

- *convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years or more (this applies even if any of the offences have been removed from criminal records at a later date);*

- *convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more in the last 10 years;*
- *removed or deported from any country;*
- *deemed a significant health concern to public safety;*
- *a member of a terrorist entity designated under national terrorism laws; or*
- *the Minister of Immigration has reason to believe the person is likely:*
 - *to commit an offence that is punishable by imprisonment; or*
 - *a threat or risk to security; or*
 - *a threat or risk to public order; or*
 - *a threat or risk to public interest.*

Therefore, limitations and specific requirements are enforced upon Australians and New Zealanders while exercising rights under the TTTA, and such policies can be applied to a future facilitated migration agreement between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Application within CANZUK

The TTTA offers a more controlled operation of migration compared to free movement existing within the European Union. At present, citizens of the European Union are free to travel within the 28 member bloc with very few limitations (especially those within the Schengen area). As economists and migration experts have indicated, this poses numerous problems with respect to excessive migration (especially from less developed member states to more prosperous member states), cross-border criminal and terrorist activities, and “health tourism” (EU citizens from less developed nations obtaining state-funded medical services in more developed EU countries).

It is important to note that these particular concerns would be non-existent within a CANZUK arrangement, as all four nations are highly economically developed, share intelligence information through the Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, and have highly developed health care services. Nevertheless, it would be advantageous for restrictions regarding social security payments, health criteria and character requirements to continue under TTTA protocols if Canada and the United Kingdom were to join the agreement.

When coordinating migration between the CANZUK nations, the British government may adopt similar policies from the TTTA to limit social security payments for new migrants. It is reasonable to expect new arrivals from Australia, Canada and New Zealand to contribute to the British economy for a period of time - through taxation and employment - before claiming state benefits.

Likewise, it would also be reasonable for the British government to protect its citizens from migrants who do not meet health and character requirements. Therefore, should a facilitated migration agreement be implemented, the British government should have full disclosure, as

exercised through the TTTA, to screen migrants for infectious diseases that may pose a health risk to the general population, and further screen migrants for criminal or terrorist affiliations, thereby denying entry to the United Kingdom to those who do not meet standards established by UK immigration authorities. Similar security protocols and policies should also exist for Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens travelling to the United Kingdom as currently exist for Australian and New Zealand citizens migrating to each others' countries.

The Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement grants the freedom for citizens to relocate and travel at will, while also implementing necessary protocols for the benefit of public safety and national security. As such, facilitated migration could be extended to all four CANZUK countries, providing they meet necessary requirements and protocols established within the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement.

Therefore, the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement is the ideal model to formulate a future CANZUK migration policy and ensure individual freedoms of travel, employment and residence are granted to Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and British citizens while also protecting public safety and national security interests.



The Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement

CANZUK International aims to establish free trading arrangements between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom through the already established Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement between Australia and New Zealand.

This agreement provides for the removal of customs duties and barriers to commerce on goods and services between Australia and New Zealand, and would permit the addition of Canada and the United Kingdom to this agreement through negotiation and cordial diplomacy, thereby affording increased economic growth and prosperity within the CANZUK countries.

The Agreement

The Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) is a free trade agreement existing between Australia and New Zealand that came into force on January 1st 1983.

The CER developed the earlier New Zealand Australia Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which was enacted on January 1st 1966. This removed four-fifths of the tariffs between the two countries and quantitative restrictions on trade across the Tasman Sea. However, it came to be seen as too complex and bureaucratic, with each of the governments of Australia and New Zealand requesting modifications and additions to the current arrangement.

As such, the newly ratified CER resulted in the total elimination of tariffs and quantitative restrictions between the two countries by July 1st, 1990, with other provisions including:

- *A good that can be sold in one country can also be legally sold in the other;*
- *Anyone registered to practice an occupation in one country may practice in the other (with some exceptions including medical practitioners); and*
- *Service providers may provide services in either country (except in certain areas such as airway services).*

Benefits for CANZUK

As the CER is also complimentary to the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement, both Australia and New Zealand mutually recognise the economic benefits of free movement of goods and services, along with the facilitated migration of citizens between each country.

The free movement of goods and services through such trading arrangements have, on average, resulted in each of Australia's and New Zealand's value in exports quadrupling since the beginning of the 1990's, providing a thriving export industry and significantly contributing to national

economic growth. Furthermore, facilitated migration has complimented free trade, providing greater labour market relations between the two countries and allowing citizens to capitalise on the growing number of employment opportunities as the economies continue to grow.

Therefore, the addition of the United Kingdom to the CER would be an ideal arrangement for the British government to seek following the country's exit from the European Union. Not only is the CER a functioning free trade arrangement between two like-minded countries, but it has proven to be advantageous for both the Australian and New Zealand economies with substantial benefits regarding imports, exports and overall economic growth.

As the British government seeks new trading relationships outside of Europe, an obvious direction is to seek the already existing agreement with our closest Commonwealth partners, providing a working model upon which the United Kingdom can join.



Why expand the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement?

It has been noted by a number of economists and migration policy experts that facilitated migration has been economically (and socially) beneficial for Australia and New Zealand. It has allowed for a more efficient distribution of skills and labour between the two countries and provided a safety net in times where one country or the other has experienced slow economic growth.

While some have questioned the benefits of facilitated migration as opposed to selective skill-based migration programs, others have reasoned that given their shared culture and language, even low to medium skilled Trans-Tasman migrants have brought greater economic benefits than high skilled migrants from other countries. Given that migrants are generally younger and more ambitious than the general population, it is not surprising that Trans-Tasman migrants have a higher workforce participation rate than the general population (in Australia, 78% of the New Zealand-born population are in the workforce, compared to 68% of the Australian-born population).

This would also undoubtedly apply to British nationals. According to research conducted by CANZUK International in 2017, a vast majority of citizens within these countries who support migration arrangements between CANZUK nations are aged between 21-40; they are young, (mostly) university educated, ambitious, and eager to travel. They also share a culture and language with the United Kingdom that allows them to integrate within society as easily as Australians and New Zealanders have for decades.

As such, facilitated migration with Canada, Australia and New Zealand would provide the United Kingdom with a diversity of skills and experience to grow the economy and develop businesses. The ease of movement would also facilitate economic integration and harmonisation in a number of areas, for example, in relation to recognition of professional qualifications and licences. This has provided greater skills transferability for Australians and New Zealanders, especially those working in trades or manual employment, without the need to re-take educational courses or skills assessments.

Furthermore, due to their common culture and language, Australians and New Zealanders also blend seamlessly into each others' countries; they do not form distinct communities, but instead, fully integrate into their host society as if it were their own. As such, ease of assimilation would also apply to British citizens. With a common language, respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, similar cultures and close ancestral ties, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens would integrate and assimilate into each others' societies seamlessly, with no complications respective of finding employment, housing or learning a national language.

These similarities also encompass a favourable sentiment between the CANZUK countries, making facilitated migration even more likely to succeed. A 2011 survey by the research firm YouGov found that Australia, New Zealand and Canada are regarded as "especially favourable" by 48%, 47% and 44% of Britons, respectively. The next most-favoured country, the USA, was significantly behind at 31%, and the most-favoured EU member, the Netherlands, received only 24%.

Similarly, a 2018 poll by The Lowy Institute in Australia found that Australians view New Zealand as the country they feel “most positively” towards, followed by Canada in 2nd and the United Kingdom in 3rd. Other trading partners and neighbouring countries polled significantly lower, including the European Union (8th), China (14th) and Indonesia (16th).

These favourable sentiments within the CANZUK countries are also self-evident, given the diaspora between them. At present, there are more British citizens living in Australia than in the other EU countries combined, and there are three times as many British citizens living in Canada, Australia and New Zealand than in the USA. This not only makes the introduction of facilitated migration between the CANZUK countries a commonsensical proposal, but one that would be welcomed across the four nations given their cultural ties and historical diaspora.

Through exercising their rights under the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement, a large number of Australians and New Zealanders also act as permanent migrants, and in doing so, make a substantial financial and personal commitment to their host economies. Through finding employment and purchasing property, this has positive economic repercussions; stimulating growth, employment opportunities, and access to labour for many businesses without the arduous requirements of visa applications, foreign sponsorship paperwork and immigration fees. Adopting the same policy within the United Kingdom would also generate growth for the economy, as many Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders would migrate permanently to the UK, thereby providing labour for businesses, and even developing their own businesses and investing in local communities. This would undoubtedly be a greater source of tax revenue for the British government and a valuable source of investment within the economy.

By creating free mobility with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the United Kingdom would also elevate its political and economic stature within the international community. Through sharing a skilled labour market pool with its closest Commonwealth partners, the UK’s economy would become one of the most prosperous in the world and grant British citizens greater opportunities for business, travel and quality of life that could not be achieved acting alone.

With overwhelming support among the general public (73% in Australia, 76% in Canada, 82% in New Zealand and nearly 70% in the UK according to recent polling), facilitated migration is a widely supported mandate within British foreign policy. The addition of Canada and the United Kingdom to the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement would also, in effect, return relations to those of pre-1973, where all four countries welcomed and embraced free movement of each others’ citizens before the United Kingdom joined the European Economic Community.

As the British government now negotiates its withdrawal from the European Union, this relationship of facilitated migration can be revived, based upon stricter terms and conditions than those of its predecessor, and hence providing greater labour market opportunities and continued economic growth for the British economy outside of the European Union.

Therefore, negotiating the expansion of the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement (for inclusivity with Canadian and British citizens) would not only provide greater employment and travel opportunities for British citizens, but would also provide increased growth, innovation and investment for the UK’s economy, thereby elevating the UK’s political and economic stature within the international community and offering partnership to our closest allies around the world.

Why expand the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement?

By negotiating mutual trading terms through diplomatic cooperation and cordial negotiations, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom would be formidable trading partners in a globally competitive world.

As the United Kingdom seeks new trading relationships after its historic vote in 2016 to leave the European Union, the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) would provide an ideal secondary option to membership of the European single market, as the CER is a long-time functioning trade arrangement that has proven to be advantageous for both economies of Australia and New Zealand.

Unlike other trading platforms around the world, free trade with Canada, Australia and New Zealand through a multilateral arrangement would offer significantly less challenges for the British government. The numerous issues of negotiating trading relationships with China, Russia, Japan and even the European Union can be overcome, but are many. Each have different goals and trading priorities from those of the UK's, as well as different legal, constitutional, cultural and linguistic challenges which affect negotiations and trading priorities in a multitude of ways. This has been evidenced by the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the like-minded Canadian government and the European Union, which took eight years to negotiate and incurred multiple challenges from regional political entities.

With the United Kingdom and Canada signing accession agreements to the CER, however, such challenges are non-existent. With shared cultural, linguistic and historical bonds through the Commonwealth, each of our four countries operate analogous legal, business and social systems that would allow trade relations to flourish and be incorporated with ease. Mutual regulatory recognition, as seen between Australia and New Zealand, would be just as straightforward for the United Kingdom and Canada, as our citizens enjoy roughly similar rates of GDP per capita, inflation, taxation and unemployment, and would face few hurdles with economic assimilation due to such similarities.

While the United States, the European Union and China can all make valuable trading partners for the United Kingdom, the British government does risk being over-matched given the competitive economic nature and political prowess of each when negotiating. However, through mutual cooperation of the CANZUK countries by exploiting our natural affinities and high-value commodities, the United Kingdom would be part of a stronger alliance that would allow the British government to advance its own values and agendas compared to acting alone.

Combined, the CANZUK countries would form the largest landmass of any free trade zone; approximately 18 million square kilometers. This would collectively constitute the fourth-largest market in the world, with a combined GDP of \$6.5 trillion (USD) and combined trade between the four countries valued at \$3.5 trillion (USD).

With a combined global trade footprint nearly twice as big as Japan's, the United Kingdom - together with Canada, Australia and New Zealand - would have substantial influence in opening up global markets and guiding global regulation across a range of economic issues.

It has been noted by a number of economists and politicians that trade deals largely formulate between close geographic neighbours, whereby physical travel times and costs are minimised for the export of commodities from one country to another (such as those within the European Union).

However, due to global advancements in technology and travel, geography should no longer be the primary reason for economic negotiation. Despite Europe being on the UK's doorstep, trade agreements have evolved in such a way that physical distance matters little compared to the economic benefits of free trade. This has been demonstrated between Canada and the European Union with the existing CETA agreement, and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) agreement, negotiated between Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and other nations across the globe with vast physical distances between them.

As such, there are numerous benefits for the United Kingdom joining the existing, and successful, CER agreement with Australia and New Zealand. As formulating trade agreements outside of the European Union is a top priority for the UK government, the CER offers a model for the United Kingdom to not only merge with our closest Commonwealth partners, but reap the economic benefits of free trade as a complimentary policy to facilitated migration (as seen between Australia and New Zealand).

With the current government of New Zealand also advocating for the UK and Canada to join the CER - to be aptly named the "Closer Commonwealth Economic Relations Trade Agreement" - and politicians in Canada and Australia also advocating policies to formulate such an arrangement, it is both progressive and commonsensical for the British government to seek accession to the current CER arrangement, not only for economic benefits outside of the European Union, but also to seek opportunities for greater global influence and economic prowess in an increasingly competitive international market.



About CANZUK International

CANZUK International is a non-profit organisation advocating closer migration, trade and diplomatic ties between Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (the CANZUK countries).

Founded in January 2015, we have campaigned for greater cooperation between the CANZUK countries with significant public, organisational and political support. Today, we comprise of staff in all four countries dedicated to advancing facilitated migration, free trade and coordinated foreign policy for the benefit of travel, business and employment opportunities for CANZUK citizens.

We are frequently featured in mainstream media around the world, and have received endorsements from senior political representatives in all four countries. Our campaign has engaged millions of citizens to advocate for our proposals via online petitions, community outreach and political advocacy, and to date, is one of the fastest growing campaigns in international politics.

Furthermore, we engage with international policy institutes, think tanks and non-governmental organisations to support our proposals, and frequently host senior members of parliament and diplomats for discussion regarding the CANZUK initiative.

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