

Canada will be a winner in this new era of deglobalisation and populism



A professional investor tells us where he'd put his money. This week: Greg Eckel, portfolio manager, Canadian General Investments, selects three favourites

Canada's stocks have enjoyed a revival this year. The S&P/TSX Composite index has gained 25%, eclipsing America's S&P 500, up just 16%. Canada has been one of 2025's best-performing developed markets, an early sign that the post-globalisation era will reward a very different set of winners.

With economies reshoring and supply chains shortening, the natural lottery of geography and geology has never mattered more. Few nations have hit the jackpot quite like Canada, which ranks among the world's top-five energy producers and sits atop \$1.7trn of natural-resource wealth from oil, gas and uranium to potash, gold and timber.

Crucially, Canada pairs this abundance with political stability and alignment with the West, which is a rare combination in a world of rising authoritarianism. As Washington turns inward, Canada's calmer politics, under the steady hand of prime minister Mark Carney, could become a safe haven for investors seeking exposure to the decade's defining themes without populist noise.

Fuelling a nuclear revival

Canada's most strategic energy resource may be uranium. As the world's second-largest producer, it stands to gain as nuclear power returns to the global electricity mix. Governments are extending reactors' lifespans, new builds are back on the agenda, and even the Magnificent Seven are investing in nuclear projects to power AI data centres' colossal energy needs – demand that could require 50 new reactors by 2030.

After years of supply cuts following the disaster at Fukushima and the West's retreat from dependence on Russian energy, markets are turning to reliable producers such as Canada. At the heart of this revival sits Cameco (Toronto: CCO), one of the world's largest and most cost-efficient uranium miners. In partnership with Brookfield and Westinghouse Electric, it plays a central role in supplying Western markets. The shares look promising as miners scramble to restore supply after a decade-long glut.

The infrastructure sector has benefited from nearshoring, electrification and decarbonisation. The \$1.2trn US Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act alone is funding more than 66,000 projects, while Carney's industrial strategy aims to



The country offers exposure to key investment themes without political instability

channel billions into Canadian clean energy, advanced manufacturing and critical minerals.

Stantec (Toronto: STN), a global leader in sustainable design and engineering, is a clear beneficiary. Its diversified footprint across energy, water and transport positions it perfectly for North America's rebuilding cycle. A focus on efficiency has delivered industry-leading profit margins, while exposure to US and Canadian infrastructure spending bodes well for growth.

Canada's answer to Nvidia

Technology is a further major driver of the portfolio. We first bought Nvidia in 2016 at an average price of around \$1.35 and have benefited from its meteoric rise ever since. But we have found the next wave of opportunities closer to home.

Celestica makes high-speed components to expand global data centres. With Nvidia, OpenAI and Oracle investing hundreds of billions of pounds in new AI computing power, Celestica sits in the middle of the supply chain. With Celestica's sales from AI-related hardware surging 80% last quarter, we can access all the disruption of Silicon Valley at a Canadian discount to heady US tech valuations.

"Data centres' demand for energy could require 50 new nuclear reactors by 2030"

