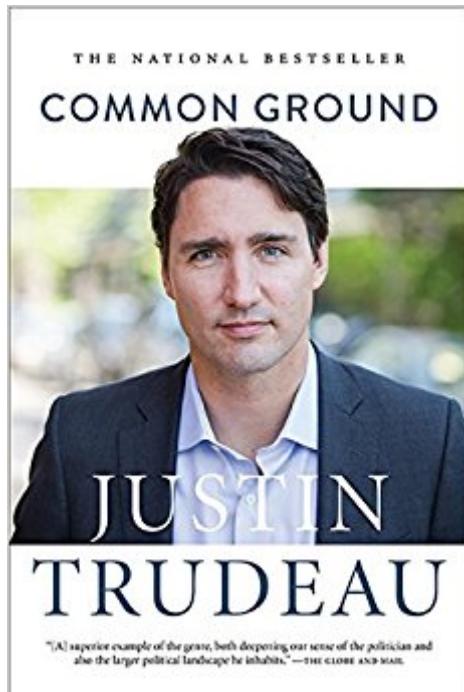


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# Common Ground



## **Synopsis**

The national bestseller Justin Trudeau has spent his life in the public eye. From the moment he was born, the first son of an iconic prime minister and his young wife, Canadians have witnessed the highs and the lows, sharing in his successes and mourning with him during tragic times. But few beyond Justin's closest circle have heard his side of his unique journey. Now, in *Common Ground*, Justin Trudeau reveals how the events of his life have influenced him and formed the ideals that drive him today. He explores, with candour and empathy, the difficulties of his parents' marriage and the effect it had on a small boy and the close relationship with a father whose exacting standards were second only to his love for his sons. He explores his political coming of age during the tumultuous years of the Charlottetown Accord and the Quebec Referendum, and reflects on his time as a teacher, which was interrupted by the devastating losses of his brother and father. We hear how a connection was forged with a beautiful young woman, Sophie Gregoire, who had known the Trudeaus in earlier days. Through it all, we come to understand how Justin found his own voice as a young man and began to solidify his understanding of Canada's strengths and potential as a nation. We hear what drew Justin toward politics and what led to his decision to run for office. Through Justin's eyes, we see what it was like in those first days of seeking the Liberal nomination for Papineau, when it was just he and Sophie and a clipboard in a grocery store parking lot, and how hard work and determination won him not only the nomination but two hard-fought elections. We learn of his reaction to the considerable Liberal defeat in 2011 and how it clarified his belief that the Liberal Party had lost touch with Canadians—and how that summer he was far from considering a run for the Liberal leadership but contemplating whether to leave politics altogether. And we learn why, in the end, he decided to help rejuvenate the Liberal Party and to run for the leadership and for prime minister. But mostly, Justin shares with readers his belief that Canada is a country made strong by its diversity, not in spite of it, and how our greatest potential lies in finding what unites us, in building on a sense of shared purpose—our common hopes and dreams—and in coming together on common ground.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Justin Trudeau is the twice-elected Member of Parliament for Papineau and Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. As a Parliamentarian, he has been Liberal Party Critic for Youth, Post-Secondary Education, Amateur Sport, Multiculturalism, Citizenship and Immigration, and sat on the House of Commons committees on the Environment and Sustainable Development, and Citizenship and Immigration. Prior to his role as an elected official, Trudeau was a teacher in British Columbia and an advocate for the environment and for youth, including four years as chair of Katimavik, Canada's national youth service program. Trudeau was born on December 25, 1971, the eldest son of the late former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Margaret Sinclair Trudeau Kemper. He is married to Sophie Gregoire, and their third child, Hadrien, joined their other two children, Xavier and Ella Grace, in February 2014.

Very interesting reading. Gives a different prospective of new Prime Minister.

It was nice to get to know Justin

Enjoyed

Great insight into our new pm

Can't get enough of Justin as I am currently afflicted with Trudeau mania. Loved delving into his innermost thoughts and the history of how he developed into such a focused, personable and skilled leader of Canada. This is a book that is hard to put down!

Good book, very interesting insight into Justin and his family

Having been a teeny-bopper in Montreal during the original Trudeaumania in 1968; I was happy to see Justin elected as Canada's newest Prime Minister. Justin is more liberal than I am but I would have voted for him if I was still living in Montreal today and had become a Canadian citizen. I enjoyed Justin's book very much. I think he is a fine young man with a very good heart. I wish that more of our U.S. politicians displayed a genuine and kind spirit. I give him credit for being very revealing about himself, especially in his college days. It takes a lot of guts for a person in politics to be so candid about the ups and downs of his or her life. The reason I am giving the book a 4 star rating instead of a 5 star rating is that I believe that Justin should have spent more time discussing what has happened in Quebec since the time his father was in office with the Anglophone exodus caused by the separatist movement. He celebrates all the new immigrants to Canada which is great but I believe as a Montrealer, he should have expressed some regret about the hundreds of thousands of Anglophones who were forced out of Quebec by the actions of the FLQ, Parti Quebecois, Bill 101, the current language police, etc. Also, he never mentions the role of the business community as a positive force in Canada - somebody has to pay the bills for the generous social benefits that Canada provides. No matter what I hope he is successful as Prime Minister. Ironically, the day Justin was elected PM, I was in Toronto on business. If not for the separatists' policies and actions having chased the major companies out of Montreal to Toronto, my trip would have been to Montreal - once the undisputed metropolis of Canada as correctly described by the late mayor Jean Drapeau - but a title that now belongs to Toronto.

I can remember when Justin Trudeau was born on Christmas Day 1971. There followed many pictures of he and his brothers peering between the legs of world leaders when his father took them along to Commonwealth Conferences or State Visits. When he decided to run for office Maclean's Mag published a multi-page spread in which they interviewed his skiing buddies and anyone else they could persuade to talk. In the most recent election the Tory Party ran some very un-Canadian attack ads. History will judge whether or not he was up to the job. but if a son learns his trade by watching his father Justin had a unique training ground. So far there have been no pictures of him pirouetting behind the back of the Queen or saying fuddle duddle. This autobiography serves as his attempt to set the record straight. The book is well-edited and very readable. After trying out the generous sample first chapter I was moved to want to read the rest. When I reached the section documenting the electoral machinations I got bogged down. First Trudeau persuaded the Liberal members of his riding to select him as candidate over the party leader's approved choice. Then he persuaded the voters

of Papineau to unseat their elected representative in his favour. Then he persuaded the Liberal Party of Canada to select him as party leader. Finally helped elect a majority government making him Prime Minister. Even if the cachet of the name Trudeau didn't work in his favour the family fortune enabled him to conduct his electioneering with a sense of comfort. It takes \$2 billion to elect a president of the US. The record of donors and their contributions are a matter of public record in Canada. Trudeau's maternal grandfather was a bagman for the party. He gets mention but in slightly more flattering terms. These final chapters are more political statement than biography. I happen to agree that the Harper Tories needed defeating. Ploughing through Trudeau's policy statements makes for dry reading unless you're a politico junkie.

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