

# **Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States**

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## A. Report Objective

The objective of this report is to present a case for Canadian politicians to cease using the term “America” when communicating about United States as a place. **(1)**

The first reason for pursuing this objective is that many Canadians reject Donald Trump and his “America First” sloganeering, with emphasis on his loose and erratic remarks about Canada as the 51<sup>st</sup> state of America, and Canada being an economic and financial weakling dependent upon American caretaking for any regard it receives on the international stage.

In the interests of full disclosure, those kinds of comments by Trump are not new or news to me, because in the 2019 report, [DOES DONALD TRUMP HAVE THE KNOW-HOW TO SAVE THE U.S.A.?](#), I investigated ways of thinking employed by Trump. The bottom-line finding was that

“... based on using ways of knowing as the diagnostic instrument, it can be confidently asserted that to an overwhelming degree, 99.9%, the chosen ways of knowing used by Donald Trump – intuition, anatomical sourcing, revelation, and authority – DO NOT represent substantive grounds for believing his statements about non-trivial matters of public interest.” (p.31)

Or, to re-phrase, less than one in 1,000 public statements made by Trump was found to be based on methodologically designed research which is a fundamental element of scientific inquiry and science in general. **(2)**

Further, and directly pertinent to this report, after re-examining the files it was found that Trump seemed to have little or no clue that his innumerable statements which include the term “America” have no grounding. **(3)**

Rather, the term is apparently flipped off, one might say, without any understanding that the notion that United States = America is part of a false narrative, a fiction, a fantasy widely shared by U.S. generations over many decades.

Or, to re-phrase, I perceive the notion that United States = America is widely held by people and entities in and from U.S. and lies in a conscious or sub-conscious tendency to regard the 48 continental states as constituting America. **(4)**

Further, it is important to emphasize that there is no expectation that this report will alter the use of the term “America” in the mindsets of Trump or anyone in or from the U.S. Our focus is on promoting the proper use of the term “America” by Canadians, beginning with Canada’s politicians. **(5)**

We return to Trump and the America First issue in Section G.

The second reason for this report is a derivative of the first reason, and it involves the high frequency during the last six months that I encountered statements by Canada's federal, provincial/territorial and municipal politicians referring to "America". **(6)**

However, the only country these politicians had in mind based on their comments were people and entities in or from United States.

To expand on the relationship between the two reasons, for some months I tolerated that, Trump being Trump, his references to "America" are little more than verbal gladhanding, posturing, and boasting for his political supporters.

However, when it became increasingly apparent that Canadian politicians had fallen into a United States = America frame of mind, and had become overly indulgent in accepting a false narrative, it struck me that a major course correction was needed to counter the false narrative that had been repeated so many times it had taken on a ring of reality to those readily gulled, as well as to those who get along by going along and by "not rocking the boat".

The course correction that emerged from analysis of personal and professional life experiences in Canada and the U.S., was the need to cause Canadian politicians to cease using the term "America" when communicating about United States as a place.

I emphasize in closing Part A that this is not an academic research report. Rather, my focus is on making a case for Canadian politicians to play a lead role in changing a narrative that has been promoted by people and entities in and from United States since the founding and naming of United States of America in 1776.

As a result, emphasis is on the language of politicians and combines qualitative and visualization techniques of analysis and synthesis. **(7)**

## **B. Catalyst for this Report: Decision by the City of Ottawa to Raise U.S. Flag at Ottawa City Hall on July 4, 2025**

This report was not on the Information Research Board's research agenda for 2025. However, the City of Ottawa decision to raise the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall on July 4, in celebration of U.S. Independence Day was a triggering event of such concern that it served as a catalyst to revise the research schedule.

By way of brief context, and as Canadians and perhaps readers from other countries may recall, during the months of March, April, May, and June 2025, Canadian broadcast

and social media reports frequently and widely attested to the broad applicability of the phrase, “It’s over”, expressed by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

In certain terms, PM Carney was marking the end to Canada’s decades-long, generally amicable, respectful, tolerant, considerate, cooperative and productive country-to-country relationship with United States.

I believe that “It’s over” must be broadly applicable to Canada-U.S. relations at the national level, including the tendency or inclination of Canadian politicians to substitute America for United States, and I address that matter in Sections A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H.

In Section I, attention is turned to why and how the City of Ottawa’s decision to raise the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025 not only counters the Prime Minister’s “It’s over” theme, but it might have unintended consequences.

That is, it could be the kind of tradition-based or just plain thoughtless decision which perpetuates the notion that it is okay for Canadian politicians to substitute America for United States because people and entities in United States like that kind of acquiescence.

Further, raising the U.S. flag to celebrate U.S. Independence Day even while U. S. is threatening Canada’s sovereignty, independence, security, and economy could be taken by some U.S. people and entities as a sign of meek capitulation to bullying.

### **C. Using the Language of Canadian Politicians to Make the Case for Them to Cease Using America as a Substitute for United States in Their Public Statements**

Many Canadian politicians refer to a balanced approach in their governance activities. As result, they will be familiar with the approach adopted for Section C and illustrated by Table 1 and Table 2.

The premise of Section C using the balanced approach is that Canadian politicians will practice the standard set by the terms in Table 1 and Table 2 when reviewing the findings presented in Sections D, E, F, G and H.

Based on content analysis of many Canadian broadcast media reports, Table 1 presents a selection of positive terms used by Canadian politicians to describe the strengths, merits, benefits, and other public good features of legislative, policy, program, plan, and operations productions. **(8)**

On the one hand, therefore, with due regard for the positive side of a balanced approach, Canadian politicians would rigorously apply Table 1 kinds of quality or performance standards before issuing public statements that accept productions in which the term America is substituted for United States.

In the case of this report the productions before Canadian politicians are those in Sections D, E, F, G and H, including the statements of findings arising from my critique of those productions.

Or, to re-phrase, since Canadian politicians use criteria such as those in Table 1 when accepting legislative, policy, program, plan, and operations productions, it is reasonable to expect that they use them in decisions to accept productions that substitute America for United States.

**Table 1. Examples of Criteria, Diagnostics, Characterizations, Features, Qualities, etc., which Canadian Politicians Could Use in Decisions to Accept Productions Which Substitute America for United States**

accountable	dependable	integrous	realistic
accurate	direct	knowledge-based	reliable
actual	documented	lucid	replicable
authentic	ethical	measurable	robust
calculable	evidence-based	observable	science-based
candid	exact	open	sound
certain	explicit	practical	straightforward
clear	evaluable	precise	testable
confirmable	factual	principled	transparent
data-based	forthright	provable	truthful
defined	honest	proven	valid
demonstrable	information-based	rational	verifiable

And, on the other hand, based on content analysis of many Canadian broadcast media reports, Table 2 presents a selection of negative terms used by Canadian politicians to describe the weaknesses, flaws, deficiencies, errors, falsehoods, misrepresentations, and other negative features of legislative, policy, program, plan, and operations productions.

Again, in the case of this report, the productions before Canadian politicians are those in Sections D, E, F, G and H, including the statements of findings arising from my critique of those productions.

**Table 2. Examples of Criteria, Diagnostics, Characterizations, Features, Qualities, etc., which Canadian Politicians Could Use in Decisions to Reject Productions Which Substitute America for United States**

ambiguity	fictitious	not definable	not robust
bafflegab	flatulent	not defined	not science-based
bluster	fuzzy	not dependable	not straightforward
claptrap	hallucination hidden	not direct	not testable
concoction	imprecise	not ethical	not transparent
conspiracy theory	indefinite	not evidence-based	not truthful
daydreaming	made up	not exact	not valid
deceptive	make believe	not explicit	not verifiable
delusional	misrepresentation	not evaluable	opaque
disingenuous	muddled	not forthright	pipe dream
dubious	murky	not honest	pretentious
equivocal	not accountable	not integrous	revelation-based
evasive	not accurate	not lucid	shallow
fable	not calculable	not measurable	simplistic
fantasy	not candid	not observable	speculation
fake	not confirmable	not open	unprovable
fallacious	not certain	not practical	unrealistic
false	not clear	not principled	unreliable
fiction	not data-driven	not reproducible	unsound

The thesis of this report is that Canadian politicians should cease using America as a substitute for United States in their public statements. The criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 1 and Table 2 which Canadian politicians use in decisions to accept or reject productions are among the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., used to derive the findings in Sections D, E, F, G, and H.

At the risk of belabouring the obvious, depending upon the situation, circumstance, etc., terms in Table 1 and Table 2 could take on different forms such as adjective, noun, verb or adverb in the productions and comments about productions containing the term America in Sections D, E, F, G and H.

Sections D, E, and F present geographic evidence to make the case that it is a totally false narrative to use the term "America" when communicating about United States as a place. The terms in Table 1 and Table 2 are used to substantiate the claim that this evidence is irrefutable.

## D. America: Recognizing 34 Country Names Plus Greenland

When Canadian politicians use the term America to refer solely to people and entities in United States, they do a disservice to the people and entities in the other 33 countries including Canada, plus Greenland which, along with United States, comprise America.

That is, and as an unintended consequence, their references to America do not take into account the other 33 countries plus Greenland which are constituent parts of North America, Central America, The Caribbean, and South America, and which in total, comprise America.

By way of brief elaboration, Table 1 lists in alphabetical order the 34 countries plus Greenland that comprise the landmass of America, with the abbreviations of NA, CA, TC, and SA identifying country locations in North America, Central America, The Caribbean, and South America respectively.

**Table 3. Names of Countries in America (2025), plus Greenland\***

Antigua and Barbuda (TC)	Dominica (TC)	Panama (CA)
Argentina (SA)	Dominican Republic (TC)	Paraguay (SA)
Bahamas (TC)	Ecuador (SA)	Peru (SA)
Barbados (TC)	El Salvador (CA)	Saint Kitts and Nevis (TC)
Belize (CA)	Greenland* (NA)	Saint Lucia (TC)
Bolivia (SA)	Grenada (TC)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (TC)
Brazil (SA)	Guatemala (CA)	Trinidad and Tobago (TC)
Canada (NA)	Haïti (TC)	United States (NA)
Chile (SA)	Honduras (CA)	Uruguay (SA)
Colombia (SA)	Jamaica (TC)	Venezuela (SA)
Costa Rica (CA)	Mexico (NA)	
Cuba (TC)	Nicaragua (CA)	

*\*Greenland is included in part because of nationhood discussions that are again in the news, along with news noises such as those emanating from America First promoters and provocateurs. And it is included in part to show due respect to the world's largest island which at 2,166,086 km<sup>2</sup> in total area is larger than Nunavut (2,093,190 km<sup>2</sup>), Canada's largest territory or province, and at 1.723 million km<sup>2</sup> is larger than Alaska, the largest state in U.S. (Thank you, Wikipedia.) Further, given the geopolitical news stories about the relatively massive deposits of rare-earth metals beneath Greenland's ice sheet, its strategic location for military and shipping route operations, and the impact of climate change on its extensive ice field, it would be an extreme oversight to not explicitly recognize Greenland in Table 1 as part of America's landmass. (9)*

As shown, there are 34 country names plus Greenland in Table 3, only one of which is United States.

One in 35 represents about 3 percent of the named places comprising geographic America, and it is the epitome of crooked logic to assign 100% of America in the name of United States.

Moreover, in the absence of verifiable and evaluable productions of what was meant by “of America” 250 years ago, I believe it is fair to say that those responsible for the phrase probably meant “in America” which would have been geographically correct. **(10)**

The argument made here is that Table 3 in Section D contains irrefutable geopolitical evidence that America is comprised of 34 countries plus Greenland.

Further, Table 3 satisfies all the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 1 to accept Section D, and none of the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 2 that on their own or in combination would be cause to reject Section D.

The first bottom line message for Canadian politicians, therefore, is that based on Section D they should cease issuing public statements that accept productions in which the term America is substituted for United States.

And being geographically correct brings us to a different perspective on understanding the composition of America, which is provided by one of geography’s most trusted and informative tools, the location map. **(11)**

## **E. America: From the Southernmost Tip of South America to the Northernmost tip of North America, and Everything in Between**

I believe that politicians who are in step with the adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words” will find the map in Figure 1 to be a very valuable contribution to this report, because they can see for themselves why all the countries listed in Table 1 and located in Figure 1 are equally part and parcel of America.

Or, to re-phrase in geographic terms, America is the big picture shown in Figure 1, and its parts are the 34 countries plus Greenland that comprise America.

Combining the messages of Table 3 and Figure 1, every named place in Table 3 is as entitled to add the suffix “of America” as every other named place, and no named place is any more “of America” than any other named place from a geospatial or geopolitical perspective because they are all part of the landmass known as America. **(12)**

**Figure 1. Location Map, Countries in America plus Greenland**



Or, to re-phrase, and as shown in Figure 1, America is comprised of every country named between the southernmost tip of South America and the northernmost tip of North America. Therefore, it is illogical verging on delusional to refer to any country on the map as America.

As for specifics, various gazetteers, atlases, maps, etc., appear to agree that Kaffeklubben Island, Greenland, is America's northern land mass extremity, and Aguila Islet, Chile, is America's southern land mass extremity.

Mainland United States is about 5,000 km from Kaffeklubben Island, Greenland to the north, and about 7,500 km from Aguila Islet, Chile to the south.

All told, there are about 12,000-13,000 linear kms of N-S land mass in America outside the U.S., a number which should assist in establishing that in the real world, United States  $\neq$  America.

The argument made here is that Figure 1 in Section E is an irrefutable geopolitical representation that America is comprised of 34 countries plus Greenland, and that Figure 1 satisfies all the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 1 to accept Section E, and none of the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 2 to reject Section E.

The second bottom line message for Canadian politicians, therefore, is that based on Section E they should cease issuing public statements that accept productions in which the term America is substituted for United States.

As for other ways to differentiate among countries in America, a selection of physical characteristics is presented in Table 4, Section F.

## **F. America: The Sum of Physical Similarities and Differences among 34 Countries Plus Greenland**

There are social, economic, cultural, environmental, and numerous other kinds of similarities and differences among countries. Many of the similarities and differences are shared in kind, many are not shared, and in the vast majority of cases they vary by extent and/or degree.

The big picture story, however, is that America is the total of all the similarities and differences and all their variations for 34 countries plus Greenland.

Table 4 presents a limited but illustrative selection of the types of physical characteristics which are used to describe places such as regions, provinces, states, countries, and continents.

**Table 4. Physical Characteristics that Reveal Similarities and Differences Among Countries in America**

Agricultural and non-agricultural land uses	Mineral resources metallic
Agricultural products	non-metallic
Animals – domesticated	energy resources
Animals– wild	industrial resources
Blizzards	fertilizer resources
Boreal forests	rare metals
Climate	Mountain ranges
Deserts	Permafrost
Earthquake zones	Plant types
Floods	Rainforests
Forests	Steppes
Fruits	Topography
Glaciers	Tree types
Grains	Vegetables
Hurricanes	Volcanoes
Ice fields	Water area
Insects	Water-fresh
Jungles	Water-salt
Land area	Weather

Some of these characteristics apply to all countries in America, and many of them apply to many countries. However, these variables which are popularly used to characterize places are not unique to any one country to the exclusion of all others.

As for United States being a synonym for the other countries in America regarding even this limited selection of entities that characterize countries, that notion is a dim shadow of reality.

Cases in point illustrating how United States is less than America include the noises being made about gaining control of resources in other countries, such as Greenland's rare earth minerals, Canada's metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, rare earth minerals, and water, the Isthmus of Panama, and agricultural and mineral resources and products of countries in Central America and South America.

And a further case in point that is extremely pertinent to the tariff and trade matter which warrants mention is the U.S. corporate presence in Canada.

A recent letter to the editor, Ottawa Citizen, points out that billions of dollars are spent every year by Canadians purchasing goods and services from more than one thousand U.S.-owned subsidiaries, retail stores, online operations, etc., located in Canada.

[\*\*\(Letters: Better information would help Canadians battle tariffs | Ottawa Citizen\)\*\*](#).

Many Canadians are boycotting these U.S. corporations, as well as U.S. corporations located in U.S. and selling goods and services in Canada, and they are reducing their time and money spent on U.S. vacations.

However, these boycotts and expenditure reductions by individuals are not extended to America's other 32 countries plus Greenland, nor are trades, vacations, educational exchanges, etc., etc., or, to my knowledge, any other kinds of interactions in place prior to Trump's election to office in November 2024.

Clearly, we are now well past the abundance of evidence level that United States ≠ America.

The argument made here is that Table 4 along with the U.S. corporation comment in Section F present irrefutable geopolitical evidence based on physical properties and commercial interests that America is comprised of 34 countries plus Greenland, and that Table 4 satisfies all the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 1 to accept Section F, and none of the criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., in Table 2 to reject Section F.

The third bottom line message for Canadian politicians, therefore, is that based on Section F they should cease issuing public statements that accept productions in which the term America is substituted for United States.

Putting the bottom lines in Sections D, E, and F together for a triple bottom line, the area that became known as United States in 1776, and the area that was assumed after 1776 as part of United States, were part of the landmass of America long before 1776, not the other way around.

The conclusion to logically draw from Sections D, E, and F, therefore, is that the time is past due for Canadian politicians to respect the true narrative of the historical and physical geographies of America, and to cease using the term America when communicating about United States as a place.

In section G we move the report into the "here and now" by bringing politics into the America-American discourse. It is expected that Section G will be of particular interest to Canadian politicians who are triggered by political or other productions to use America in public statements solely about people or entities in or from United States,

## **G. Catchphrases Like “America First” Reveal a National Mindset in the U.S. that Should Alert Canadian Politicians about the Need to Cease Engaging in the America-American Narrative**

The Google search engine is acknowledged for its contribution to examining the digital literature on “America First”.

In the interests of balance and representativeness, the sites selected include U.S. conservative, U.S. liberal, U.S. academic, and non-U.S. academic channels and websites. The keyword search began with America First, and then combined America First with the terms positive, negative, progressive, regressive, global, isolationist, fascist, and democratic.

The purpose of the searches is to ascertain whether the term “America” is used as more than a catchphrase, a buzzword, a vague notion, an emotional hot button, a gimmicky sales pitch, a dog whistle, or some other kind of hook that falls within the purviews of razzle dazzle, fakery, puffery, scam, blowing smoke, gaslighting, etc.

As for the standards to meet in conducting the search, they were previously presented in Table 1 and Table 2. Operationally, then, and demonstrating due regard for methodological integrity, the five criteria passed applicability tests that use the terms in Table 1 and Table 2, as do the comments arising from application of the five criteria.

Criteria for the searches and scans for substantive productions and comments focussed on the term America include:

1. Whether the term America is substantively described.
2. Whether the basis of the description is provided.
3. Whether there is evidence that the author(s) is(are) aware that there are 34 countries plus Greenland in America.
4. Whether there is mention that for reasons of logic, accuracy, and precision the proper reference in the digital communication is United States and not America.
5. Whether there is any evidence-based indication that America First is more than a slogan, motto, notion, catchphrase, and so on.

With America First as the keyword, eight hours of searches and scans of U.S. conservative, U.S. liberal, U.S. academic, and non-U.S. academic channels and websites did not yield any formal research reports addressing the full set of criteria noted above, or other criteria that might be pertinent to this study.

In terms of proportion of hits which are pertinent to this study and giving benefit of doubt to productions and comments that are “in the ballpark”, each of the first four criteria

came in at less than 3%, and they are primarily from non-U.S. academic channels and websites.

I hasten to add that more sophisticated and more intensive or extensive searches could have yielded a larger percentage, but the bottom line appears to be that the percentage would not exceed five per cent for criterion 1, 2, 3, or 4.

As for criterion 5, the searches and scans found that claims and counterclaims about America First being more than a slogan, motto, notion, catchphrase, and so on did not reach five per cent of searches.

Moreover, most of those claims and counterclaims were ideological and/or political in nature, and productions and comments claiming that America First is more than a catchphrase, slogan, motto, notion, and so on, failed to satisfy criterion 1, 2, 3, or 4.

The term “mindset” is therefore a most apt way to characterize the motivation behind creating America First as a front-and-centre production of the Trump administration, and regardless of whether America First is cheered or jeered, the bottom lines are that the substantive aspect is minimal, and the statements might best be described as exercises in “veneering” because the America part is a fiction – United States is not America.

Moreover, there are only the vaguest of references to the term First, which comes off as catch phrasing, sloganeering, cheerleading, whistling past the graveyard, etc.

As for another America-centred catch phrase originating in United States, “make America great again”, upon deconstruction that political slogan comes off as more on the silly side than the sober side, because in the light of reality the catch phrase amounts to nothing more than empty rhetoric.

By way of brief comment, from even an elementary analytical perspective, the phrase and productions that comment on the phrase did not pass even one test using the terms in Table 1. Hence, no good reason is found for Canadian politicians to accept any America First production that substitutes America for United States.

And, on the other hand, the phrase “make America great again” was susceptible to all the terms in Table 2.

Consequently, numerous good reasons are found for Canadian politicians to reject any “make America great again” production that substitutes America for United States.

And the final observation in this section goes to the pronouncement by Donald Trump in which he relabelled Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America.

This matter is relevant to this report, but not because it involves Trump who was described by Robert Kelley, one of his professors at the University of Pennsylvania, as “The dumbest goddam student I ever had”.

No, the lesson of import for Canadian politicians is the relatively few accounts in U.S. broadcast media outlets that challenge or even ask about the Gulf of America relabelling stunt. Specifically, and in my experience of following broadcast news from democratic countries around the world for many years, I do not recall such a nationally weak broadcast news response as when Trump arbitrarily substituted America for Mexico.

And if that in fact is the general case regarding U.S. broadcast media relative to other democratic countries' broadcast media, then in my view that kind of media mindset on its own is full cause for Canadian politicians to cease substituting America for United States in their public statements.

## **H. Summary of Findings Demonstrating Why Canadian Politicians Need to Cease Using “America” in Public Statements about United States**

In Section A, the statement is made that the habit, tendency, inclination, and any other leaning that substitutes America for United States is engaging in a false narrative, a fiction, a fantasy.

And, in Section B, Table 1 presents 48 criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., which Canadian politicians could use in decisions to accept productions which substitute America for United States, and Table 2 presents 76 criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., which Canadian politicians could use in decisions to reject productions which substitute America for United States.

It is emphasized that all the terms in Table 1 and Table 2 are from statements by municipal provincial, territorial, and federal Canadian politicians in such productions as election campaign releases, media releases, broadcast media news, and social media comments.

In Sections D, E, F, G, and H the terms in Table 1 and Table 2 are used to confirm that substituting America for United States is a false narrative, a fiction, a fallacy, a fantasy. The following comments summarize the findings leading to that confirmation.

First, as discussed in Section D, America is comprised of 34 countries plus Greenland, which are named in Table 3. It defies reality to claim otherwise and invokes most if not all the terms in Table 2 should a Canadian politician go that route.

On its face, therefore, Section D alone is deemed sufficient grounds to urge Canadian politicians to cease substituting America for United States in their public statements.

Second, as discussed in Section E, America is comprised of 34 countries plus Greenland, which are shown on the location map in Figure I. The map in Figure I is one of millions of maps representing the 34 countries plus Greenland, as well as other entities comprising America. It defies reality to claim otherwise and invokes most if not all the terms in Table 2 should a Canadian politician go that route.

On its face, therefore, Section E alone is deemed sufficient grounds to urge Canadian politicians to cease substituting America for United States in their public statements.

Third, as discussed in Section F, Table 4 illustrates the kinds of similarities and differences in the physical properties and characteristics among each of America's 34 countries plus Greenland.

A full accounting of all the similarities and differences and their variations would entail a massive geospatial database undertaking, with the U.S. component being a small part of that undertaking.

It defies reality to claim otherwise and invokes most if not all the terms in Table 2 should a Canadian politician go that route.

On its face, therefore, Section F alone is deemed sufficient grounds for Canadian politicians to cease substituting America for United States in their public statements.

Fourth, the critical examination of America First in Section G may be the only such examination done to date by any person or entity anywhere.

In brief, no evidence was found of any prior examination of America First which asked such basic and fundamental questions as:

1. Whether the term America is substantively described.
2. Whether the basis of the description is provided.
3. Whether there is evidence that the author(s) is(are) aware that there are 34 countries plus Greenland in America.
4. Whether there is mention that for reasons of logic, accuracy, and precision the proper reference in the digital communication is United States and not America.
5. Whether there is any evidence-based indication that America First is more than a slogan, motto, notion, catchphrase, and so on.

As discussed in Section G, the substantive aspect of America First is minimal, and texts about America First might best be described as exercises in "veneering" because, as

demonstrated by Sections C, D, E, and F, the America part is a false narrative, a fiction, a fable, a fantasy, -- United States is not America --, no matter how many times that false narrative, fiction, fable, or fantasy is repeated.

The other phrase discussed in Section F, “make America great again” is also the stuff of false narrative, fable, fiction, fantasy, etc., because it pertains only to United States and not to the 33 other countries plus Greenland which comprise America.

And, as previously discussed, arbitrarily name-swapping Gulf of America for Gulf of Mexico may appeal to some people and entities in United States.

However, it is a silly gesture on the world stage and is another strong signal to Canadian politicians to cease using America as a substitute for United States in their public statements.

On its face, therefore, Section G is deemed sufficient grounds for Canadian politicians to cease substituting America for United States in their public statements.

Section G completes making the case for Canadian politicians at all levels to cease substituting America for United States.

Section I presents a backstory which shaped the content of this report, including the emphasis on directing the report at Canadian politicians.

## **I. Backstory on Experiences with the Mindset of U.S. People and Entities that Cause Concern about Canadian Politicians Substituting America for United States**

The backstory recalls three experiences in Canada and U.S. which provided early warnings about the false narrative, fiction, or fantasy associated with substituting America for United States.

Those experiences no doubt factored into my sense of dread upon reading the America First manifesto and its spin-offs, with that level of dread being compounded by reading and hearing naïve and/or gushy statements by Canadian politicians about America and American people and entities when they were referring solely to people and entities in and from United States.

But before proceeding to the backstory experiences let me add a personal and professional note of context. I have had many thousands of positive and productive interactions with U.S. people and entities over the past 60 years, and I have frequently documented that relationship.

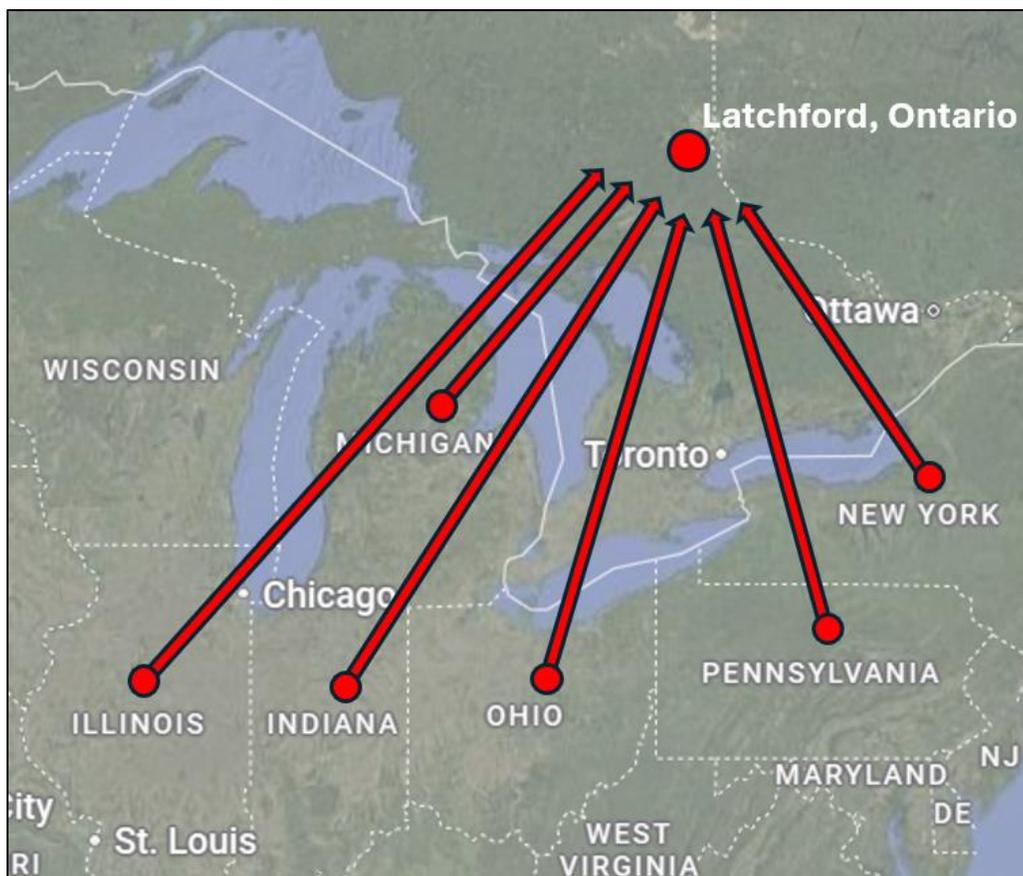
The three experiences are not representative of that relationship, but they point to an underlying anxiety that I have harboured regarding the America-American mindset among U.S. people and entities, and the implications of that mindset for Canada.

### 1. Early Exposure to America-American Tendencies by U.S. Visitors to Canada

It would have been 1950 or so when I was in my pre-teen years that I first encountered people from United States calling their country America and themselves Americans. They were male anglers from states such as Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois who came to my small lumber mill town of Latchford in Northeastern Ontario to go up the Montreal River to fish for pickerel (pike family) or walleye (perch family) and northern pike, and lake trout and brown trout in nearby lakes.

Seventy-five years ago, it was a relatively hard drive to Northeastern Ontario with nary a stretch of four-lane highway to be seen, and locals were puzzled by those who drove so far to get “skunked”. Figure 2 puts the location of my early exposure to America-American terminology in geographic context.

**Figure 2. The Anglers Were from United States, So Why Talk about America this and American that in Northeastern Ontario?**



Those anglers from U.S. were a good bunch, very amiable, but regardless of the state on a licence plate they shared what came to be seen by townsfolk as an annoying trait. That is, there was overly frequent mention of America this and American that in conversations about such everyday topics as gamefish, boating, cabins, motors, mosquitos, and even sandwiches, which gave me an early heads up about a difference between them and us. **(13)**

In brief and confirmed year after year at the boat launch and in my family's restaurant, visitors from a half-dozen states south of the border could not seem to mention America enough, even about the most mundane of topics. In comparison, I do not recall any Canadian person or group substituting America for Canada, even though Canada is as much a geopolitical part of America as United States.

By the time of my late teens, I had never encountered hostility or anything like that, but I detected a condescending tone with touches of arrogance and boastfulness in references to America by U.S. visitors.

## **2. Graduate School in United States, More America-American Exposure**

Flash forward 15 years to 1965 and I am in the graduate program, Department of Geography, Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois, United States.

Within weeks of arriving with my family in Evanston, I became aware of the saturation-level of frequency that U.S. people, entities and especially broadcast media use the term America in every kind of communication and venue when referring to U.S. people, entities, events, processes, whatever.

I thought it excessive, and even presumptuous for those in one country in America to seemingly co-opt terminology that had hemispheric and continental connotations. And, I had many occasions to learn first-hand about the pervasiveness of this mindset. One occasion in particular stands out.

In 1968 while in the doctoral program I was invited to testify at the Hearings, National Commission on Urban Problems. The hearings were chaired by Dr. Paul Douglas, a former U.S. Senator from Illinois.

The presentation outlined my research on developing the data, information, and knowledge infrastructure needed to solve and prevent or mitigate urban problems, and on using the emerging technologies of remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies to support the infrastructure that underpins evidence-based decision-making. **(14)**

It was a privilege to discuss my graduate research before such an august body, and to have such a venue to express my gratitude for the support I was receiving from Northwestern faculty and U.S. government agencies (Census Bureau, HEW, HUD, NASA, USGS, LoC).

However, discussions with Dr. Douglas about my Canadian perception of graduate research in "America" as he put it, was cause to revisit my issues with America-American terminology. **(15)**

For example, I asked Dr. Douglas "If the urban problems under discussion are solely those of cities in United States, and not cities throughout America, why was the Commission report to be titled, *Building the American city: report of the National Commission on Urban Problems to the Congress and to the President of the United States?*"

Dr. Douglas complimented me on my Canadian curiosity, stated that the choice of words was not his, and urged me to focus on my geographic data to geographic information to geographic knowledge transform research. Well played, you might say, and the quandary remained because even the esteemed Chair of a President's Commission on Urban Problems seemed at a loss to explain how the term American was in the title of a President's Commission report dealing with cities specifically and solely in United States.

### **3. A Shared Opinion about "Usan"**

In 1977-1978 I was President, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), and in that capacity I represented URISA during the annual conference at a number of meetings with U.S. federal government officials in Washington DC. The meetings were organized by Wilbur Steger, PhD in economics from Harvard, URISA past president (1970-1971), President of CONSAD Research Corporation, and advisor to federal, state, and municipal government agencies in U.S., as well as to business.

By 1978 I had returned to Canada from U.S. and was Senior Policy Advisor at Canada's federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. Wil Steger was a very astute, world-view person of international stature, and after meetings over several days, he asked me about my willingness to share my ideas about a national, geographically based information systems framework with "Americans".

My response was that I was sharing them with "Usans" because people and entities in the U.S. (as well as Canadian governments and Canadian research funds) and not Americans, supported me through grad school and beyond.

Wil Steger was caught off-guard by “Usan”, but he applauded the idea because the term follows an international tradition for many countries. Since 1978, I have floated Usan in trial balloon mode on occasion but, 47 years later, it is still America this and American that in the U.S. mindset, and Usan has not yet seized the day to replace American.

The three experiences may be testimony to my nature to reject loose concepts, vague notions, ambiguities, unfounded generalizations, presumptuous posturing, false impressions and other wispy constructs that cause me to link the U.S. version of America-American to Whitehead’s Fallacy of Misplaced Concreteness. That is, and based on arguments made in Sections D, E, F, and G, the perception that America = United States and United States = America and, therefore, are interchangeable equivalents, is a logical fallacy.

In brief, America, which is comprised of North America, South America, Central America and The Caribbean regions consists of 34 countries plus Greenland plus protectorates and territories, and is a definable physical entity, whereas using America as some kind of stand-in pseudonym for United States is a notion, a fabrication, an idle thought, a figment, and a fallacy.

After all is said and done, then, I believe that my U.S. experiences are informative grounding for this report. And I believe they provide a sound, empirical basis for posing the core questions of this report:

1. Why do Canadian politicians use the term America to refer to United States?
2. What will it take to cause them to cease engaging in a false narrative, a fiction, a fantasy, by substituting America for United States?

Section I is the final part of this report, and it comments on both questions by discussing the second catalyst for this report, that is, the decision by the City of Ottawa to raise the U.S. flag on that country’s Independence Day, even as people and entities in and from the U.S. are threatening Canada’s independence, sovereignty, security, and economy.

(16)

## **J. What Part of “It’s over” did the City of Ottawa Not Get before Raising the U.S. Flag on July 4, 2025?**

Prior to Donald Trump’s election as President of United States in 2016, he engaged in erratic and uninformed tariff and trade talk, he continued that erratic and uninformed talk throughout his first term as president, 2016-2020, he continued it while out of office 2020-2024, and he resumed his erratic and uninformed tariff and trade talk when returned to office as president by the 2024 U.S. federal election.

One of his most frequently and disdainfully mentioned targets for all those years, and increasingly so right up to July 4, 2025, was Canada.

There were many consequences of Trump's erratic and uninformed tariff and trade talk, as well as other talk by Trump that many Canadians regarded as obnoxious, uninformed, rude, specious, bullying, belittling, threatening, hostile, malevolent, and ignorant.

One consequence of Trump's behaviour including his posting of offensive social media texts was the pronouncement by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney that "It's over", with reference to the Canada-U.S. relationship which had prevailed for many decades and is now done and gone.

That pronouncement resonated with many Canadians and perhaps more sharply with Canadians living in Ottawa, which is Canada's capital city and 'home' to the Government of Canada.

It therefore came as a great shock to this resident of Ottawa and to many other residents of Ottawa to see this July 3 headline in the *Ottawa Citizen*: "City of Ottawa to raise U.S. flag to celebrate Independence Day despite trade tensions".

I overcame my shock, and sent a letter to the editor, *Ottawa Citizen*, which was published July 10 with the heading, "City was wrong to raise the U.S. flag".

The letter is presented as Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1. Letter to Editor, Ottawa Citizen, July 9**

<https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/letters-american-flag-ottawa>

**City was wrong to raise the U.S. flag**

Re: [City of Ottawa to raise U.S. flag to celebrate Independence Day despite trade tensions](#), July 3.

When Prime Minister Mark Carney said "It's over" after yet another batch of tariff and trade tantrums by the erratic Donald Trump, he spoke for all Canadians and their institutions.

The good old days of Canada-U.S. relations are over, gone, gone, gone and we must take full charge of our destiny by embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with this new day in the unfolding of Canada's geopolitical, economic, financial, social, cultural, military and other stories.

And then Ottawa city hall caved in to "protocol."

While polls reveal that most Canadians are on board with Carney, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and others at city hall slavishly followed a nonsensical protocol procedure and decided to fly the U.S. flag on July 4 in celebration of that country's independence, and all the while U.S. President Donald Trump is hell-bent on stripping sovereign Canada of its independence.

The bizarre flag decision by Ottawa city hall is more than just a head-shaker; it is a betrayal of public trust.

Barry Wellar, Nepean

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The next several pages discuss communications (Exhibit 2- Exhibit 8) with City of Ottawa officials about raising the U.S. flag on July 4, even though it was well-known that U.S officials were on a mission to destroy Canada's sovereignty and cause this country great economic and financial grief.

Our interest is in ascertaining why:

- a. City of Ottawa officials committed what is widely perceived by Ottawa residents to be a major political blunder, and
- b. Whether the communications shed light on what is needed for Canadian politicians to cease being overly deferential to U.S. politicians and political entities, and to cease substituting America for United States in public statements.

**Exhibit 2. Email to Multiple Recipients Re: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4**

Sent: July 8, 2025, 7:48 PM

To: Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca; Matt.Luloff@ottawa.ca; Laura.Dudas@ottawa.ca; David.Hill@ottawa.ca; Cathy.Curry@ottawa.ca; Clarke.Kelly@ottawa.ca; Glen.Gower@ottawa.ca; Theresa.Kavanaugh@ottawa.ca; Laine.Johnson@ottawa.ca; Sean.Devine@ottawa.ca; Jessica.Bradley@ottawa.ca; Tim.Tierney@ottawa.ca; stephanie.plante@ottawa.ca; Rawlson.King@ottawa.ca; Ariel.Troster@ottawa.ca; Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca; Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca; Sean.Menard@ottawa.ca; Marty.Carr@ottawa.ca; Catherine.Kitts@ottawa.ca; Isabelle.Skalski@ottawa.ca; David.Brown@ottawa.ca; Steve.Desroches@ottawa.ca; Allan.Hubley@ottawa.ca; Wilson.Lo@ottawa.ca; mark.carney@parl.gc.ca; jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca; Premier@ontario.ca; rob.flack@pc.ola.org.

Cc: 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; wellar.barry@gmail.com

Subject: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

Mayor and Councillors, City of Ottawa, Premier Ford, Minister Flack, PM Carney, MP Sudds,

Re: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

When PM Carney said “It’s over” after yet another batch of tariff and trade tantrums by the erratic Donald Trump, the PM spoke for all Canadians and their institutions.

To paraphrase the PM’s statement and its elaborations that resonated with millions of Canadians, the “good old days” of Canada-U.S. relations are over, gone, gone, gone, and we must take full charge of our destiny by embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with this new day in the unfolding of Canada’s geopolitical, economic, financial, social, cultural, military, and other stories.

It therefore came as a shock to read broadcast media and social media reports that the City of Ottawa would fly the U.S. flag on July 4 for reasons of “protocol”.

Seriously?

Day after day for months, polls revealed that most Canadians are on board with PM Carney in adopting an elbows up position to deal with a tariff and trade war started by the U.S.

And yet, despite the animosity that most Canadians feel towards the U.S., Mayor Mark Sutcliffe and others at Ottawa city hall slavishly followed a nonsensical protocol procedure and decided to fly the U.S. flag on July 4 to join in the celebration of that country’s independence, and all the while U.S. president Donald Trump is hell-bent on stripping Canada of its independence.

There is no explanation to justify a bizarre decision which betrays public trust and, as a result, I neither want nor seek one from the City of Ottawa.

However, to possibly limit future blunders of this nature, Premier Doug Ford and MMaH Minister Rob Flack are added to the recipient list to be informed of a recommendation that the Government of Ontario restrict the scope of City of Ottawa protocol decisions and actions to matters that are strictly specific to the City of Ottawa.

Indeed, given the conflicting flag-related arguments made by municipal councils in Ontario on this matter of national and international geopolitical significance, and possibly causing PM Carney grief that should have been totally avoidable, I further recommend to Premier Ford and Minister Flack that they issue an instruction to municipal councils to keep their protocol decisions and actions strictly local.

Sincerely,

Barry Wellar

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., RPP  
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa  
President, Information Research Board Inc.  
133 Ridgfield Crescent  
Nepean, ON K2H 6T4  
CANADA

<http://wellar.ca/informationresearch/>

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**Comment** Exhibit 2 served notice to federal, provincial, and municipal government politicians about the flag-raising incident and associated concerns given the Canada-U.S. relationship, and opened the door to sending them this and other productions.

**Exhibit 3. Reply on behalf of City of Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, Subject: RE: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4**

Sent: July 9, 2025 9:40 AM  
To: wellar.barry@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

Good Morning Mr. Wellar,

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with us. By way of this email, I am confirming the receipt of your correspondence. I have been tasked with getting back to you on behalf of the Mayor's office.

As the nation's capital, the City of Ottawa observes a long-standing protocol of flying the national flag of any country with which Canada maintains formal diplomatic relations, on that country's national day, should that country choose to have such a ceremony. Global Affairs Canada provides the City with the [list](#) of countries with whom Canada maintains such relations. Canada has maintained diplomatic relations with the United States of America since 1927, and those relations continue today.

In keeping with this policy, the City of Ottawa has raised the flag of the United States of America each year on its national day until sunset at the request of the American embassy.

The Mayor also recognizes that July 4 is an opportunity to highlight the shared history and deep, lasting friendship between the people of our two countries. Even when there are political tensions and challenges, we should focus on building relationships and working together.

It should also be noted that the flying of international flags falls uniquely within the purview of the City's Office of Protocol and is not a decision made by the Mayor's office.

For your reference, you can review the City's Flag Policy Procedures at the following link:

<https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/city-manager-administration-and-policies/office-protocol-and-intergovernmental-affairs/office-protocol-and-intergovernmental-affairs-procedures#section-b039644c-a1b1-4a3a-80fd-d05cb237367d>

Sincerely,

Benjamin Poirier  
Communications Officer / Agent des communications  
Office of Mayor Mark Sutcliffe / Bureau du maire Mark Sutcliffe  
City of Ottawa / Ville d'Ottawa

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**Comment** The reply was gratuitous because no reply was requested. That said, it is useful because it opened the door to questions, and it confirmed the report's concern about Canadian politicians substituting America for United States.

**Exhibit 4. Reply to Mayor Mark Sutcliffe**

Subject: RE: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4  
From: wellar.barry@gmail.com <wellar.barry@gmail.com>  
Sent: July 14, 2025 4:56 PM  
To: 'Sutcliffe, Mark (Mayor/Maire)' <mark.sutcliffe@ottawa.ca>  
Cc: 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'douglasarnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; wellar.barry@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe,

Thank you for your reply to my communication of July 08, 2025 re Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

That communication stated that I neither sought nor wanted an explanation regarding the decision by the City of Ottawa to fly the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025.

However, you did send a response, and several statements in your communication are cause for me to seek clarification as follows:

1. Did any member(s) of council participate in the decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall on July 4, 2025?
2. If yes, who participated, what was the reason for participation, and what was the nature of that participation?
3. If there was no participation by any member of council, who made that decision and for what reason(s)?

Sincerely,

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., RPP-Ontario (Lifetime)  
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa  
President, Information Research Board Inc.  
133 Ridgefield Crescent  
Nepean, ON K2H 6T4  
CANADA  
<http://wellar.ca/informationresearch/>

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**Comment** Given the national and international geopolitical implications of raising the flag of what portrays itself as a hostile nation through the talk of its president, and is seen by many Canadians to be a hostile nation, this research project needs to know what action was taken by whom, and why, so that a proper accounting can be done to identify those responsible for what is deemed a major blunder by the City of Ottawa.

#### **Exhibit 5. Flag-Flying Exchanges Move from Mayor's Office to Office of Protocol**

From: Sutcliffe, Mark (Mayor/Maire) <mark.sutcliffe@ottawa.ca>  
Sent: July 15, 2025 10:11 AM  
To: wellar.barry@gmail.com  
Cc: Francoeur, Daniel <danielc.francoeur@ottawa.ca>  
Subject: RE: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

Good morning Mr. Wellar,

Thank you for your follow up. I have been tasked with getting back to you on behalf of the Mayor's office.

As you can appreciate, seeing as flag raisings falls under the purview of the City's Office of Protocol, they would be in the best position to address your inquiries. To that end, I have copied Daniel Francoeur, Protocol Advisor, for his team's review and consideration moving forward.

Thank you again for your time and, on behalf of the Mayor's office, I wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Poirier

Communications Officer / Agent des communications

Office of Mayor Mark Sutcliffe / Bureau du maire Mark Sutcliffe

City of Ottawa / Ville d'Ottawa

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**Comment** It is a surprise and a concern that the Office of Mayor deferred to the Office of Protocol to represent a political decision as a *pro forma* matter.

We bypass comments on contradictions among City of Ottawa communications and go to a note from the City of Ottawa Chief of Protocol. Apologies in advance for repetition of City of Ottawa boilerplate materials.

**Exhibit 6. Communication from Chief of Protocol, City of Ottawa**

From: McLean, Arnold <[arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca](mailto:arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca)>

Sent: July 16, 2025 2:00 PM

To: [wellar.barry@gmail.com](mailto:wellar.barry@gmail.com)

Subject: FW: Flawed City of Ottawa decision to fly U.S. flag on July 4

Dear Dr. Wellar,

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. I would like to begin by offering an apology on behalf of my colleague, who respectfully responded to your original email despite your indication that you did not wish to receive a reply.

As the steward of the City of Ottawa's flag policy, it is my responsibility to ensure that all policies under the mandate of the Office of Protocol are upheld. As previously communicated, the City observes a long-standing protocol of raising the national flag of any country with which Canada maintains formal diplomatic relations, on that country's national day. Canada has maintained diplomatic relations with the United States of America since 1927, and those relations remain in place today. Accordingly, the request to raise the flag of the United States met the criteria outlined in the City's established flag policy.

It is worth noting that the flag-raising on July 4 provided an opportunity to recognize the shared history and enduring friendship between our two nations. Even in times of political tension or disagreement, fostering dialogue, strengthening relationships, and reflecting on shared values remain important. The occasion also allowed us to mark the National Day of the United States in celebration and alongside the many American citizens who call Ottawa home.

In response to your most recent inquiry dated July 16, I can confirm that, with the exception of the Mayor, no members of City Council were involved in the decision to raise the U.S. flag at City Hall or participated in the event. (Highlighting added: contrary to the claim by the mayor's office, apparently he was involved in the flag decision.)

Kind regards,

Arnold McLean

Chief of Protocol | Chef du protocole

Office of Protocol | Bureau du protocole

City of Ottawa | Ville d'Ottawa

110 Laurier Avenue West | 110, avenue Laurier Ouest

Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

613.580.2424 ext. | poste 21520 | [arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca](mailto:arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca)

---

**Comment** Canada is at the receiving end of hostile political and economic takeover talk from the U.S., and the City of Ottawa caves in to protocol and a request from the U.S. embassy in Ottawa to fly the U.S. flag on that country's Independence Day. The word "mindset" makes another appearance.

The final communication runs a check on the mutuality of the flag-raising level of commitment between the capital cities of Ottawa for Canada, and Washington DC for United States.

### **Exhibit 7A. Questions to Mayor Sutcliffe about Ottawa's Connection to Washington DC Regarding Flag Diplomacy**

Sent: August 10, 2025 7:42 PM

To: Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

Cc: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca; Premier@ontario.ca; 'craig macaulay'

<lvcairental@gmail.com>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'douglasarnold'

<douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca; wellar.barry@gmail.com

Subject: More questions about the decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall July 4, 2025

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe

City of Ottawa

Mayor Sutcliffe,

Good evening,

This is a follow-up to earlier communications regarding the City of Ottawa decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall on July 4 and thereby join in celebrations of Independence Day in the U.S.

Upon further examination of communications from Ottawa city hall, several questions arise:

1. Did you contact the City of Washington DC about flying the Canadian flag on July 1 in 2023, 2024, or 2025? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?
2. Did you contact the City of Washington DC and ask if it has ever flown the Canadian flag on July 1 in celebration of Canada's national day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?
3. Prior to deciding to fly the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025, did you contact any authoritative source to ascertain if the Canadian flag had ever been flown on July 1 by the City of Washington DC in celebration of Canada's national day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?
4. Did you contact the U.S. Congress about the City of Washington DC flying the Canadian flag on July 1 in 2023, 2024, or 2025? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?
5. Prior to deciding to fly the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025, did you contact any authoritative source in the Government of Canada or the Government of Ontario to ascertain the propriety of the City of Ottawa flying the U.S. flag on July 4 in celebration of U.S. Independence Day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?

In the interests of transparency and completeness, and convenience of transmitting productions to interested parties, please forward to me the communications sent or received.

Please attend to this matter at the earliest moment.

Thank you.

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., RPP-ON (Lifetime)  
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa  
President, Information Research Board Inc.  
133 Ridgefield Crescent  
Nepean, ON K2H 6T4  
CANADA  
<http://wellar.ca/informationresearch/>

**Comment** No reply was received from Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, which suggests that despite the geopolitical turmoil swirling around Canada-U.S. relations, he never thought of confirming that there is a Canada-U. S. understanding about raising the other country's flag on its respective National Day of Celebration despite any turmoil between the two countries.

The same communication was sent to Mr. Arnold Mclean, Chief of Protocol, City of Ottawa.

**Exhibit 7B. Questions to Chief of Protocol Arnold McLean about Ottawa's Connection to Washington DC Regarding Flag Diplomacy**

From: wellar.barry@gmail.com <wellar.barry@gmail.com>

Sent: August 10, 2025 8:03 PM

To: arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca

Cc: 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'douglasarnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'craig macaulay' <lvcarental@gmail.com>; wellar.barry@gmail.com

Subject: RE: More questions about the decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall July 4, 2025

Mr. Arnold McLean

Chief of Protocol

City of Ottawa

Mr. McLean

Good evening

This is a follow-up to earlier communications regarding the City of Ottawa decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall on July 4 and thereby join in celebrations of Independence Day in the U.S.

Upon further examination of communications from Ottawa city hall, several questions arise:

1. Did you contact the City of Washington DC about flying the Canadian flag on July 1 in 2023, 2024, or 2025? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?
2. Did you contact the City of Washington DC and ask it has ever flown the Canadian flag on July 1 in celebration of Canada's national day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?

3. Prior to deciding to fly the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025, did you contact any authoritative source to ascertain if the Canadian flag had ever been flown on July 1 by the City of Washington DC in celebration of Canada's national day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?

4. Did you contact the U.S. Congress about the City of Washington DC flying the Canadian flag on July 1 in 2023, 2024, or 2025? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?

5. Prior to deciding to fly the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025, did you contact any authoritative source in the Government of Canada or the Government of Ontario to ascertain the propriety of the City of Ottawa flying the U.S. flag on July 4 in celebration of U.S. Independence Day? If not, why not? If yes, what was the response?

In the interests of transparency and completeness, and convenience of transmitting productions to interested parties, please forward to me the communications sent or received.

Please attend to this matter at the earliest moment.

Thank you.

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., RPP-ON (Lifetime)  
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa  
President, Information Research Board Inc.  
133 Ridgefield Crescent  
Nepean, ON K2H 6T4  
CANADA

<http://wellar.ca/informationresearch/>

**Exhibit 8. Reply from Chief of Protocol to Questions about Washington DC Flying Canada's Flag on July 1**

From: McLean, Arnold <arnold.mclean@ottawa.ca>

Sent: August 12, 2025 9:17 AM

To: wellar.barry@gmail.com

Cc: 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'douglasarnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'craig macaulay' <lvcairental@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: More questions about the decision to fly the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall July 4, 2025

Dr. Wellar,

On July 21, in response to numerous inquiries from you and the individuals copied on email message, I provided detailed context regarding the City of Ottawa's Flag Policy Procedures, along with the rationale for raising the flag of the United States on July 4.

In response to your most recent inquiry, I can confirm that the answer to each of your questions below is **no**. As the steward of the City's Flag Policy, there is no requirement to contact any foreign government to seek approval for raising flags, to request a rationale for related decisions about flags, or to compare reciprocal actions taken by foreign governments as it relates to flags.

Given your continued interest in this matter, you may wish to reach out directly to the City of Washington, the United States Congress, or the Government of Canada for the information you seek regarding the Canadian flag.

Regards,

Arnold McLean

Chief of Protocol

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**Comment** And there we have it. There was **no** reach-out to Washington DC or any other U.S. entity about a mutually respectful flag-raising relationship. Nope, just the City of Ottawa naively "bending the knee" so to speak, by raising the U.S. flag with seemingly no thought whatsoever about what Ottawa residents and Canadians in general would make of such a one-sided gesture by the mayor and chief of protocol.

The final exhibit features Mayor Sutcliffe in a recent news story about property taxes. The closing paragraph mentions tariffs and sovereignty and is included in this text for future reference.

### **Exhibit 9. Ottawa Mayor Learning Anything from U.S. Flag-Flying Blunder?**

**City aims to contain property tax increase, Ottawa Citizen, August 23, 2024, p. A4. para 28 of 28.** "We've made a lot of progress since 2022, but we're also facing new challenges," he said, citing U.S. tariffs, threats to Canadian sovereignty and economic uncertainty with the prospect of significant cuts to the federal public service."  
([<image001.png>](#))

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**Comment** Perhaps the letter to the editor, Ottawa Citizen, and inquiries about the flag-raising blunder played a role in Mayor Sutcliffe including mention of tariffs and sovereignty in a story about property taxes. In any event 2026 is another year, and we

look forward to the City of Ottawa explanation should it again raise the U.S. flag on July 4 to celebrate that country's Independence Day.

### **K. What Does Analysis of Decision by the City of Ottawa to Raise U.S. Flag at Ottawa City Hall on July 4 Reveal about Canadian Politicians Ceasing to Substitute America for United States in Public Statements about United States**

It should be a given for any Canadian politician to understand the argument made in the first part of the report. That is, as demonstrated the substitution of America for United States is at best a nonsensical exercise because the notion is a false narrative, a fable, a fantasy totally removed from reality.

And it should be a given for any Canadian politician loyal to Canada and Canadians to accept that argument and act on it by ceasing to substitute America for United States in public statements.

That being said, it remains to be seen whether and how quickly Canadian politicians will move in that direction, which brings us to the test provided by the City of Ottawa decision to raise the U.S. flag at Ottawa city hall on July 4, 2025.

It seemed obvious to me that no government in Canada would be so bumbling as to raise the U.S. flag in celebration of that country's Independence Day, when Canada was caught up in tariff, sovereignty, and other aspects of geopolitical turmoil caused entirely by U.S. politicians and entities.

However, I was wrong.

And I was also wrong in thinking that no politician and no appointed official in any city in Canada much less Canada's capital would raise the U.S. flag on July 4, much less defend such an obvious blunder.

Three pertinent findings arise from analysis of the flag-raising decision.

First, based on the City of Ottawa decision to raise the U.S. flag on July 4 in the face of compelling evidence that such an action is counter to Canada's national interests, it appears that the value of compelling evidence to some politicians may be readily discounted for self-serving or other reasons not in the public interest.

If so, some Canadian politicians may have trouble processing the compelling and straightforward evidence that substituting America for United States in public statements is the stuff of false narrative, fable, and fantasy.

That being the case, one can only hope that Canadian politicians who choose to substitute America for United States in their public statements are in a minority, and that citizens will help them change their ways.

By the same token, we await learning if this report helps to pull the plug on the City of Ottawa's bumbling notion about raising the U.S. flag on that country's Independence Day, while that country causes us geopolitical grief for months on end and ignores our flag on Canada Day.

Second, there is seemingly a minimal amount of thinking outside the box involved in dumping a *pro forma* flag-raising routine which in this case comes off as a gesture that supports a foreign country's abusive and erratic behaviour towards Canada.

However, even a minimal amount of outside-the-box thinking was seemingly too much for City of Ottawa officials.

Consequently, while it seems self-evident that Canadian politicians should readily be able to cease substituting America for United States in public statements, if thinking outside the box is required for some Canadian politicians to call United States by its proper name, United States, it may be a struggle for them to make what should be a simple shift.

Canadians can only hope that the struggle will not be prolonged.

Third, 'schmoozing' with U.S. people and entities in the National Capital Region (NCR) seems to be part-and-parcel of the lives of all Canadian politicians who spend time in the NCR, and that relationship appears to include frequent and unquestioning use of the term America by Canadian politicians.

It is quite possible that the mayor of Ottawa and city official are caught up in the schmoozing game and are eager to please U.S. people and entities wherever they may be, which could explain both the flag-raising blunder and their inclination to use the term America in both spoken and written public statements.

And, the converse is also quite possible, namely that Canadian politicians who are not in the habit of schmoozing with U.S. people and entities could very quickly adjust and adapt as needed to call United States by its proper name, United States.

Finally, at the time of this writing in late August 2025, United States is again making hostile noises towards Canada on the political front about tariffs, trade, sovereignty, border traffic and military issues, as well as about access to Canadian water, access to Canadian rare metals, and access to Canadian energy resources.

We look forward to learning whether that pattern of hostility will cause the City of Ottawa to publicly repent its decision to raise the U.S. flag on July 4, 2025, and to publicly report its intentions for 2026 well in advance of July 4 so that residents have time to engage.

And we look forward to witnessing City of Ottawa politicians and staff take the lead on putting an end to substituting America for United States in all public statements and other public productions.

## **L. Conclusion**

This report finds that there is no reason for Canadian politicians to substitute America for United States in their public statements, and that there are numerous reasons for ceasing that practice.

Further, this study finds that the City of Ottawa committed an inexplicable blunder by raising the U.S. flag on July 4 to join in celebrations of that country's Independence Day, even though U.S. was engaged in an assault on Canada's independence, sovereignty, security, and economy.

## **M. Implications for Future Research**

A potential follow-on study is to examine the use of the term American by Canadian politicians referring to people and entities in and from United States.

## **N. Endnotes**

1. If America ceases to be substituted for United States, then it follows logically to cease substituting American or Americans for people and entities in or from United States. That topic is on the IRB research agenda for future consideration.
2. The two primary goals of science are to add to knowledge and add to ways and means of continuing to add to knowledge, neither of which are satisfied by any of the ways of knowing used by Trump, that is, authority, common sense/everyday experience, intuition, and revelation,
3. There are many thousands of examples of Trump's disconnection to reality. A recent, widely publicized disconnect was his bizarre pronouncement to rename the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America.
4. Although I have been engaged with U.S. people and entities for more than 60 years, I use perceive rather than believe because I have not researched why people and entities

in and from U.S. describe themselves as American or refer to other people and entities in or from U.S. as American. That is a potential research topic for another day.

**5.** My interest is in why Canadians use the term American to refer to people and entities in or from United States, and what it might take to cause that practice to ease. A study of why U.S. people and entities use the term American to refer to people and entities in or from United States might shed light on why Canadians engage in that practice.

**6.** For more than 70 years it was my fact-based understanding that United States was part of America, and the frequent substitution of America for United States by Canadian politicians gave me serious pause about their perceptions, and about the rigor of the reasoning processes that they were bringing to discussions about such geopolitical matters as tariffs, trade, defence umbrella, cross-border traffic, coast lines, territorial integrity, and water resources.

**7.** Many of the relationships explored in this report can be subjected to quantitative techniques of analysis and synthesis. However, based on extensive experience in such matters, it appears appropriate to limit this production to text and images.

**8.** As a result of serving as senior research officer, urban information theme coordinator, director, and senior policy advisor at the federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, involvement in municipal, provincial. and federal election campaigns, and reviewer/examiner of productions by all levels of government, I am hands-on familiar with the terms in Table 1 and Table 2. Further, I am aware that numerous other terms could be added to both Table 1 and Table 2. However, the presented lists are sufficient for this report.

**9.** In addition to the 34 countries plus Greenland, the land mass of America also consists of protectorates and territories. The notion that the country United States = America gets more bizarre with each scan.

**10.** Briefly, “in” is a geolocation preposition informing where Ottawa is located, that is, Ottawa is in Canada, whereas “of” is a relationship preposition informing that Ottawa is the capital of Canada. The country named United States is in America along with 33 other countries plus Greenland, and all countries could attach “of America” without infringing on anyone’s naming rights. That said, I asked around and no one knew what “of America” might mean in substantive terms when front-ended by United States or the name of any other country plus Greenland located in America.

**11.** It is of course possible to lie with maps as well as with words, other images, and numbers, with one of the famous examples of such lying being the practice of gerrymandering in United States which uses multiple ways of distorting reality to gain

electoral advantage. However, the maps used in this report are similar to many other maps that have been 'out there' for decades.

**12.** Endnote 9 discussed the "in" and "of" distinction.

**13.** I am not inferring that anglers from those states provide a sound base from which inductive reasoning may proceed, or that they represent a sample from which statistics can be derived. However, they were sufficient in number and frequency of appearances over a decade for me to form several lasting impressions.

**14.** Giving credit where credit is due, graduate research at Northwestern was the basis of a research proposal that won a national competition in 1972 when I was on faculty at the University of Kansas. The competition was funded by U.S. federal agencies. However, I decided to reject the funding offer and returned to Canada. In 1978 I attended meetings with federal officials in Washinton DC to discuss the 1972 research proposal. Researchers without borders, you might say.

**15.** My research focus was on the physical reality->data->information->knowledge transform process, but to my mind the terms "America" and "American" that I was encountering were abstract notions which brought to mind Whitehead's writings on the fallacy of misplaced concreteness or FMC for short. (For discussion of FMC see, for example, <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-fallacy-of-misplaced-concreteness>.) That was a legitimate scientific inquiry concern, and Dr. Douglas could only sympathize with my quandary about how to reconcile hard reality with two loose abstractions.

**16.** The underlying hope and expectation are that with time growing short for Canada and its politicians to properly sort its relationships with United States, the conversation about the two questions will rapidly turn into movement in providing remedial actions.

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