

Sovereign Canada Means NO to the U.S.-Controlled F-35

**Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., RPP-Ontario (Lifetime)
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa
President, Information Research Board**

wellar.barry@gmail.com

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



***I meant what I said, and I said what I meant.
Canada's sovereign, one-hundred percent.***



February 2026

A. Background

The Information Research Board (IRB) had scheduled its first published report on Canada's purchase of weapons systems from United States for June 2026. **(1)**

However, the hostile content and derisive tone of statements by U.S. President Donald Trump during and after the 2026 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, January 19-23 is cause to move the report publication date forward for immediate consideration. **(2)**

Five reasons make the U.S. F-35 fighter jet package the weapons system of interest for this interim report.

First, the F-35 purchase has been the subject of at least limited coverage in Canada's broadcast media, so citizens have been apprised of some aspects of F-35 discussions between Canadian and U.S. officials. **(3)**

However, due to the abundance of unasked and unanswered questions in the public realm, it appears clear that much more needs to be revealed to citizens by politicians and bureaucrats before any contracts are signed. **(4)**

As Canadians have often learned the hard way, when they do not ask the right questions the right way at the right time of the right people, they are too often stuck long-term with the consequences of bad decisions made by short-term politicians and bureaucrats. **(5)**

Second, the F-35 decision could be a clear signal about the future of other purchases by Canada of U.S. weapons systems, so the sooner the update is published the greater its potential contribution to the discussion by Canadians about where Canada is at now, and how it should move forward regarding the degree of control United States exercises over any weapon system purchased from United States. **(6)**

Third, numerous concerns have been raised about the apparent inclination of high-level decision-makers in Canada's Department of National Defence (DND) to support, promote, and recommend purchasing multiple numbers of the F-35, even though all aspects of that weapon system are totally under control of United States which, at the time of this writing in 2026, is properly deemed to be a hostile foreign government due to its threats and actions.

This pro-U.S inclination may be a matter of longstanding DND culture, or a one-off circumstance involving the F-35, but questions arise as to how any of these conditions square with the idea of purchasing fighter jets that are totally under control of United

States which, at the time of this writing in 2026, is widely seen as a hostile foreign government. **(7)**

Fourth, many questions arise about how any officer who supports, promotes, and recommends purchasing a weapons system which is totally controlled by another country.

In recent months much has been made by citizens and journalists of the cone of silence **(8)** atmosphere that has thwarted inquiries about DND records, and what many deem a massive failure by DND to respond to legitimate requests involving DND records, much less requests for information. **(9)**

Based on DND's frequent use of the cone of silence ploy to achieve a closed-shop atmosphere enveloping the agency, it appears to be high time for the federal government and specifically PM Carney and Minister McGuinty to assure Canadians that DND officials who put the interests of a foreign entity before the interests of Canada are removed from involvement with the procurement of any weapons system. **(10)**

Fifth, it is my understanding after numerous readings and consultations, that the federal cabinet makes the final decision regarding purchase of the F-35 weapons system, with emphasis on the positions of Prime Minister Mark Carney, Defence Minister David McGuinty, as well as inputs from other cabinet members such as heads of Defence Investment Agency, Public Services and Procurement, Defence Procurement, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development, Treasury Board, and Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Given the number of players who have been in the procurement game more might have been expected, but too many ministers making noise can spoil the signal. At this point in time, however, the bottom line is that many Canadians claim they are not fully informed about F-35 matters, and history teaches us an important lesson in this regard.

That is, waiting around for governments to provide comprehensive and readily accessible explanations or even details of non-trivial political decision choices is more likely than not to prove an exercise in futility.

Therefore, instead of waiting until forever, so to speak, and this is the option taken here, questions are asked of elected officials, and propositions are put to them as a means to engage with those who are elected to represent citizens' interests. **(11)**

Purchase of a fighter jet weapons system is a very big deal in many ways for Canada, and this report presents questions and propositions for the attention of Canadians, PM

Carney and Minister McGuinty, as well as for the federal cabinet, other Members of Parliament, and broadcast media members.

Other reasons apply but, due to time exigencies, they are withheld for the next update.

B. Reasons for Using the Broadcast Media Domain to Express Questions, Concerns, Opinions, and Propositions about Canadian Sovereignty v. Procuring the U.S.-Controlled F-35

The limited time available to report on research findings requires that we forego traditional ways of collecting empirical data, such as by surveys of politicians **(12)**, as well as by scans of statements regarding politicians' positions on the purchase of the F-35 fighter jet from United States. **(13)**

As a result, the approach for this case study is to engage with the newspaper component of broadcast media and seek to put materials "out there" in the most expeditious way possible for consideration by Canadians, politicians, and members of Canada's broadcast media. **(14)**

Due to the extended length of time often required to publish op-eds, columns, special reports, etc., it was decided to send letters to editors, as they can be printed within a week or even a day or so of submission.

I hasten to add that this approach is not a slam dunk as many letter writers have learned, but, relatively speaking, it does have its advantages with emphasis on the timeliness aspect.

Fortunately, that is the case with the letters sent to the editor, *Temiskaming Speaker*, an outstanding Ontario community newspaper, which published several letters within the week of submission. They form the basis of section C. **(15)**

In addition, letters were also sent to the Ottawa Citizen, Toronto Globe & Mail, and Toronto Star, but were not published. **(16)**

However, the letters were simultaneously distributed to project reviewers, politicians, journalists, and interested citizens, and form part of the body of materials prepared by IRB on the discourse about purchasing the F-35.

As a result, those letters are also included in section C as part of the narrative which is in the public domain describing the F-35.

C. Letters to Editors Regarding Canadian Sovereignty and the F-35

This section presents the letters to editors and email communications to politicians along with comments which refer specifically to the reasons in Section A for the report, **Sovereign Canada Means NO to the U.S.-Controlled F-35**.

Exhibit 1. Letter to Editor, Bringing home spending and jobs

Temiskaming Speaker, December 10, 2025. Page 5a.

Dear editor,

In a previous letter to the editor, I discussed concerns about Canadian consumer dollars ending up in corporate bank accounts in the U.S.

One nation-building consequence that I did not discuss because I was working on numbers is job creation in Canada that comes with reducing purchases of goods and services from U.S. corporations in the U.S. as well as from their subsidiaries and branch operations in Canada.

At the macro scale it is estimated that every Canadian sends more than \$9,000 a year to U.S. corporate bank accounts, and indications are that some classes of expenditure are missed, which could push the overall amount to over \$10,000/yr.

Of that amount, individuals may have direct control over, let us say, just \$1,000, but here is where big numbers have big impacts.

If 20,000,000 Canadians switch just \$100 from U.S. to Canadian businesses when buying goods and services, the additional \$2 billion now spent in Canada could translate into more than 25,000 jobs at \$40,000/yr., or more than 50,000 jobs at \$20,000/yr.

It is my expectation that if politicians are informed that citizens are doing their part to decrease U.S. dominance in commerce, then our politicians will up their game and stop giving away the store to the U.S., such as by the F-35 fiasco.

Dr. Barry Wellar (formerly of Latchford), Member, Order of Canada, Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, President, Information Research Board Inc.

Comment on Exhibit 1. By early December 2025 I read more than 1,000 broadcast news items **(16)** regarding the trade and tariffs issue, and the more I read the more it appeared that Canadians were not being fully informed by federal politicians or bureaucrats about the fighter jet story, and that Canada's broadcast media were doing a superficial and/or partisan job of informing Canadians about how the F-35 process was

being managed in terms of ensuring that Canada's sovereignty was not further compromised due to adding to the entanglements with U.S. that Canada already had in place.

The term “fiasco” seemed to me the appropriate way to describe numerous broadcast and social media accounts and postings regarding the F-35 process. (17)

And it also seemed to be a term that might prompt a defensive or clarifying response from politicians or bureaucrats, as well as from members of the broadcast media community which I perceive had been failing to properly inform the Canadian public on the fighter jet procurement process.

Exhibit 2. Email to PM Mark Carney re: Exhibit 1

From: wellar.barry@gmail.com <wellar.barry@gmail.com>
Sent: December 10, 2025 7:54 PM
To: 'mark carney' <mark.carney@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: 'jenna sudds' <jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'douglasarnold douglasarnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; wellar.barry@gmail.com; 'Steve Larocque' <speaker.steve@northernontario.ca>; 'Gordon Brock' <gordon.e.brock@gmail.com>; 'George Lefebvre' <shasonje@gmail.com>
Subject: Bringing home spending and jobs letter, *Temiskaming Speaker*

Dear PM Mark Carney,

My research reveals that many Canadians are eager to support federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal government initiatives, as well as NGO efforts to affirm Canadian sovereignty, including its economic stability, independence and self-sufficiency vis-à-vis United States.

However, my research also reveals that many Canadians welcome suggestions about how they can participate directly in activities that promote Canada's economic, financial, social, environmental, technological, military, and geopolitical sovereignty.

The attached letter to the editor, *Temiskaming Speaker* on “Bringing home spending and jobs” that was published today has already generated very positive feedback, so I take that response as a message for the Government of Canada to broaden its approach to a more inclusive perception about who wants in on the sovereignty action.

Sincerely,

Barry Wellar

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

Comment on Exhibit 2. Keyword-based scans of broadcast media did not yield results demonstrating that the theme of the Exhibit 1 letter, **Bringing home spending and jobs**, had been the subject of widespread coverage. However, whether breaking new ground or walking a news path walked many times before, it is my experience that communications people in political offices tend to ignore messages in community-based media, so this letter puts a community newspaper perspective on record.

That said, I have not encountered much in the way of big-city media coverage of advocacy productions along the lines of **Bringing home spending and jobs**, so perhaps that letter is the record on the topic of **Bringing home spending and jobs**, including those involved in spending and jobs associated with fighter jet procurement.

As of this writing, no response has been received from PM Carney re: Exhibit 1 or 2.

Exhibit 3. Letter to Editor, An open letter to the PM

Dear PM Mark Carney,

My research reveals that many Canadians are eager to support federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal government initiatives, as well as NGO efforts to affirm Canadian sovereignty, including its economic stability, independence and self-sufficiency vis-à-vis the United States.

However, my research also reveals that many Canadians welcome suggestions about how they can participate directly in activities that promote Canada's economic, financial, social, environmental, technological, military, and geopolitical sovereignty.

A December 10 letter to the editor, *Temiskaming Speaker* (Bringing home spending and jobs), has already generated very positive feedback, so I take that response as a message for the Government of Canada to broaden its approach to a more inclusive perception about who wants in on the sovereignty action.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa President, Information Research Board Inc.

Comment on Exhibit 3. The letter was invited by the editor to complement previous letters, and that invitation from one of Canada's outstanding community newspapers was immediately accepted. More scans of radio, TV, and broadsheet broadcast media reveal few citizen advocacy productions along the lines of the letters published in the *Temiskaming Speaker*.

Exhibit 4. Email to Letters Editor, *Ottawa Citizen*, re: New Procurement Policy, Dec. 20, 2025.

From: wellar.barry@gmail.com <wellar.barry@gmail.com>
Sent: December 23, 2025, 4:28 PM
To: 'letters' <letters@ottawacitizen.com>; nferiancek@postmedia.com
Cc: 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'doug arnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; wellar.barry@gmail.com
Subject: RE: New Procurement Policy, Dec. 20.

The letter which follows was sent December 21. Is it going to be published? If so, when?
(18)

Barry Wellar

From: wellar.barry@gmail.com <wellar.barry@gmail.com>
Sent: December 21, 2025, 3:57 PM
To: 'Letters' <letters@ottawacitizen.com>
Subject: Re: New Procurement Policy, Dec. 20.

Re: New Procurement Policy, Dec. 20.

The time has long passed to remove DND generals who, for reasons unknown to the Canadian public, are still pushing to procure the F-35 fighter plane from the U.S.

What the public does know about the F-35 is that use of the F-35 is totally controlled by the U.S. as to when, where, why, how, and against whom it can be used, and the U.S. also controls the inventories of spare parts and the conduct of maintenance operations.

With those conditions of absolute U.S. control over the entire weapons system, the cost and performance variables are mere distractions, and the F-35 should have been on and off the table in about three minutes.

PM Carney needs to step up and replace those generals who seem to have no understanding that sovereignty includes Canada having full control over our air force.

And he should get Canada in line ASAP to take up Sweden's Gripen option as part of Canada's movement towards closer ties with those who share Canadian democratic, rule-of-law, and social values in word and deed.

Barry Wellar, Nepean

Comment on Exhibit 4. The letter was not published, but as of this date no accounts have been located in the Ottawa Citizen or any other broadcast media outlet regarding the issue of DND personnel opting for fighter jets totally controlled by United States, and no reports on social media have been encountered wherein politicians of any party raise concerns about officials in DND opting to purchase fighter jets from U.S. even though they are totally controlled in all respects by U.S.

The bottom-line point is that feedback from reviewers strongly support putting the text of that letter "out there" for future reference when Canadians and others look back at how Canadian broadcast media engaged in the debate about Canada's fighter jet procurement process. In the case of the Ottawa Citizen, "No one is home" as the saying goes.

Exhibit 5. Letter to the Editor, Bait-and-switch strategy could take flight

Temiskaming Speaker, December 30, 2025. Page 5a.

Dear editor,

My recent opinion letter prompted inquiries about the "F-35 fiasco," so please let me explain the fiasco and suggest what I perceive to be the fighter aircraft purchase strategy hidden behind PM Carney's poker face.

It would be a fiasco for Canada to buy any weapons system that is totally controlled by the seller as to when, where, why, how, and against whom it can be used, and even less so when the seller has control of spare parts and maintenance operations.

To even think of doing such a deal regardless of cost or performance is idiocy, and Canadians are not idiots.

Clearly, a high stakes game is being played here, and it seems way too complicated for National Defence generals who are lampooned for their silly arguments in favour of the F-35 which is a total dud for the control reason alone.

Fortunately, however, PM Carney signs off on this matter, and if his strategy is buyer bait-and-switch, then our PM goes viral in the negotiating world.

That is, the buyer (Canada) sets up the seller (Trump) into sensing a sweet deal for the U.S., and then the PM pulls the plug when the timing is right to go with the Swedish Gripen, a deal which would be controlled in all respects by Canada and not by Trump in any respect.

We know that Trump is easily trumped when he does not control the cards, and he does not take informed advice, so the buyer bait-and-switch strategy seems perfect for our stone-faced PM. Well played, sir.

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M., (formerly of Latchford) Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, President, Information Research Board Inc.

Comment on Exhibit 5. Officials at DND who would contemplate for even a minute purchasing F-35 fighter jets from U.S. that are totally under the control of the seller (U.S.) boggles my mind, and the minds of other non-governmental parties receiving these communications. It is to be hoped by all who are concerned about Canada's sovereignty, self-determination, self-reliance, and its standing as a free and democratic society, that there is a proper housecleaning of pro-Trumpers in DND as the earliest moment.

As for the bait-and-switch notion, Trump does it dozens of times per week and sometimes per day, hence the TACO label (Trump Always Chickens Out). Should he choose to do so, PM Carney could yank Trump around like a puppet on a string as he tries to keep up with bait-and-switch teasers pumped out by Canada's very agile PM.

Exhibit 6. Email to PM Mark Carney re: Exhibit 5

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

Sent: January 2, 2026 3:25 PM

To: 'mark carney' <mark.carney@parl.gc.ca>; david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca

Cc: 'jenna sudds' <jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca>; pauline.rochefort@parl.gc.ca; 'Steve Larocque' <speaker.steve@northernontario.ca>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'doug arnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; 'George Lefebvre' <shasonje@gmail.com>; 'Gordon Brock' <gordon.e.brock@gmail.com>; wellar.barry@gmail.com

Subject: Procurement and F-35 letter, Bait-and-strategy could take flight

Dear PM Carney, Minister McGuinty,

In the name of Canada's sovereignty, independence, and self-determination, I believe it is essential that Canada does not procure any land, sea, or air weapons system from United States if use of that system, obtaining of parts, or scheduling of maintenance operations is controlled by United States, including the F-35 aircraft.

I have expressed my concerns in that regard through several letters to the editor, the *Temiskaming Speaker*, which is an award-winning community newspaper. I expect that MP Pauline Rochefort (Nipissing-Temiskaming) is familiar with that newspaper.

In the attached letter (Exhibit 6) I take issue with Canada procuring the U.S. F-35, and I also take issue with DND having on staff any person who does not understand and respect that Canadian sovereignty, independence, and self-determination is compromised when Canada procures military equipment controlled by a foreign country.

Sincerely,

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

Comment on Exhibit 6. I am concerned about an apparent cone of silence over the matter of DND officials opting for the purchase of the F-35 fighter jet from a foreign country which totally controls all aspects of the purchase.

I am also concerned about the competence and loyalty of DND officials engaged in fighter jet negotiations and deals.

And, further in that vein, there is deep concern about the seeming lack of action by political leaders to ensure Canadians that DND is free of officers who could compromise Canadian sovereignty, self-determination, self-reliance, etc. in any way.

As one Member of the Order of Canada to another, PM Carney, I take very seriously the message that Members of the Order "desire a better Canada."

I am therefore astounded that any highly placed member of the Canadian military, a Canadian institution that the world respects, would for even a moment think that buying fighter jets from U.S. sources is a way to achieve a better Canada.

Exhibit 7. Letter to editor, Ottawa Citizen, re No to U.S-controlled weapons systems in Canada

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

Sent: January 19, 2026, 3:59 PM

To: 'letters' <letters@ottawacitizen.com>

Subject: No to U.S-controlled weapons systems in Canada

Dear letters editor, Ottawa Citizen,

The abundance of stories about the geopolitical fearmongering of Donald Trump is cause for deep concern about the intentions of PM Mark Carney and Defence Minister David McGuinty regarding a bizarre DND situation which is long overdue for critical media scrutiny at the national level.

Informed Canadians are aware of the bellicose threats and deadly actions used by Donald Trump to bully countries in America (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Greenland-Denmark, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), as well as many other countries outside America, to do what Trump dictates them to do for reasons that are widely decried as dictatorial ravings.

One result of that unhinged behaviour according to recent polls is that 35% of Canadians are concerned that Trump plans to invade Canada, which brings me to Carney, McGuinty, DND, and Canada's purchase of U.S. weapons systems, including the F-35 fighter jet.

Why oh why, I ask, are senior officials in DND who support buying the F-35, for example, still on the payroll when every aspect of the purchase – use, deployment, hangars, repairs, maintenance, spare parts – is totally controlled by a potential military adversary?

The evidence is overwhelming that the U.S. is no longer a trusted ally, and it boggles the mind that anyone in DND who supports buying a weapons system totally controlled by the U.S. has not been given the boot for gross incompetence compounded by blatant disloyalty to Canada.

Barry Wellar, C.M., Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, President, Information Research Board Inc.

Comment on Exhibit 7. This letter was not published by the Citizen, nor by the Toronto Star or the Globe & Mail, but its circulation to a number of interested parties resulted in valuable contributions to the IRB case study on DND and weapons systems procurement. Further, it added to the growing body of literature Canada's seemingly

declining body of broadcast news sources for investigative journalism reports, as well as inputs from readers through letters to the editor or op-ed pieces.

Exhibit 8. Letter to the editor, Fighter jets should not come from U.S.

Temiskaming Speaker, January 21, 2026. Page 5a.

Dear editor,

Several of my *Speaker* letters regarding the perilous state of Canada-U.S. relations (“Bait-and switch strategy could take flight,” Dec. 30, “Bringing home spending and jobs,” Dec. 10) have been brought to the attention of PM Carney and Defence Minister David McGuinty, and are the basis of this letter on a bizarre Department of National Defence (DND) situation which is long overdue for critical media scrutiny at the national level.

Briefly, Trump and the Executive Branch with Republican support are using bellicose threats and deadly actions to bully other countries in America (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Greenland-Denmark, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), and many other countries outside America, to do what Trump and his gang tell them to do for the benefit of Trump and his gang.

As a result, according to recent polls some 35 per cent of Canadians are concerned that Trump and his gang have plans to invade Canada, which brings me back to Carney, McGuinty, DND, and Canada’s purchase of U.S. weapons systems, including the F-35 fighter jet.

Why oh why, I ask, are senior officials in DND who support buying the F-35, for example, still on the payroll when every aspect of the purchase – use, deployment, hangars, repairs, maintenance, spare parts – is totally controlled by a potential military adversary?

The evidence is overwhelming that the U.S. cannot be counted on as a trusted ally, and it boggles the mind that Trump supporters in DND have not been given the boot for gross incompetence compounded by blatant disloyalty to Canada.

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M. (formerly of Latchford) Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, President, Information Research Board Inc.

Comment on Exhibit 8. The response from reviewers to the question “Why oh why, I ask, are senior officials in DND who support buying the F-35, for example, still on the payroll when every aspect of the purchase – use, deployment, hangars, repairs, maintenance, spare parts – is totally controlled by a potential military adversary?” is that

politicians from all parties are failing citizens as are members of the broadcast media community if such a question should even need to be asked.

Moreover, the lack of disclosure problem gets worse as citizens struggle with the seeming conflict of thought that while politicians and broadcast media “talking heads” make much of U.S. threats to Canada’s sovereignty, self-determination, self-reliance, and related aspects of staying a free and democratic society, few questions are raised about buying fighter jets from those who are hostile to Canada but retain full control over use, deployment, maintenance, spare parts, etc., of the fighter jets.

The word “headshaking” is one of the polite terms used to describe the apparent challenge facing citizens to sort and sift their way through conflicted and confusing claims that are rarely supported by evidence.

Finally, all the comments about Exhibit 4 apply here, but even more so because the continuing failure week after week of Canada’s broadcast media to step up when it comes to telling Canada’s side of this story.

Or, to rephrase, the worrisome consequence is that as the crunch of differences between Canada and U.S. intensifies, far too much room is left for U.S. broadcast and social media to dominate the Canada-U.S. trade, tariffs, geopolitical, etc. narratives which are led by an increasingly erratic Donald Trump whose mental state is widely seen to be deteriorating at a precipitous rate. (19)

Exhibit 9. Email to PM Carney re WEF matters and getting the U.S. F-35 off the table

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

Sent: January 22, 2026 1:32 PM

To: 'mark carney' <mark.carney@parl.gc.ca>

Cc: david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca; 'jenna sudds' <jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca>; 'Steve Larocque' <speaker.steve@northernontario.ca>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'doug arnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; 'George Lefebvre' <shasonje@gmail.com>; wellar.barry@gmail.com; 'Gordon Brock' <gordon.e.brock@gmail.com>

Subject: Post-WEF and Fighter jets should not come from U.S.

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

After Donald Trump’s bizarre performance at the 2026 World Economic Forum, the publication schedule of the Information Research Board (IRB) has been changed to call

your attention to my recent letter, **Fighter jets should not come from U.S.**, which was published in the *Temiskaming Speaker* on January 21, 2026.

PM Carney, this letter will be combined with previous letters and other communications in an IRB report which will advocate for the removal of all DND officers who support purchasing any weapons system controlled by the United States.

Further, the report will be asking the Government of Canada for an explanation as to why DND could have on staff any official who recommends purchase of weapons systems, including F-35 fighter jets, which are totally under the control of a foreign government, much less one headed by a commander-in-chief who has uttered numerous threats challenging Canada's sovereignty and right to self-determination as a free and democratic society.

As posts by an international body of observers including those from Canada and United States make abundantly clear, under no circumstances, none, should Canada give any consideration to purchasing F-35 jets, and I urge you to make that position known at the earliest moment to Canadians and all citizens of the world.

Canadians and citizens of the world deserve no less after your stalwart presentation and responses to questions at WEF.

Respectfully yours,

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

Comment on Exhibit 9. This communication emphasizes the point that it is beyond bizarre for Canada to contemplate purchasing the F-35 fighter jet from the U.S.

And, further to that point, it is also beyond bizarre for DND to have on staff even one official who supports purchasing the F-35 from the U.S. even though the U.S. is a hostile foreign power and would retain full control over the aircraft.

It is past time for Canada to cut intimate military ties with United States, and the longer it takes to cut those ties the more Canada is compromised by hostile threats and actions by the Trump administration.

The credibility accruing to PM Carney and Canada because of the WEF affair is geopolitical capital that must not be frittered away by chasing after Trump and his appointees who seem to have a thing about charging pell-mell down rabbit holes.

Exhibit 10. Email to defence Minister David McGuinty re: WEF matters and getting the U.S. F-35 off the table

Sent: January 22, 2026 2:57 PM

To: david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca

Cc: 'mark carney' <mark.carney@parl.gc.ca>; 'jenna sudds' <jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca>; 'Steve Larocque' <speaker.steve@northernontario.ca>; 'George Lefebvre' <shasonje@gmail.com>; 'George A. Neville' <george.neville@ncf.ca>; 'doug arnold' <douglasarnold@sympatico.ca>; 'le hibou' <ottawaowl2@yahoo.ca>; wellar.barry@gmail.com

Subject: Post-WEF and Fighter jets should not come from U.S.

Mr. David McGuinty
Minister of Defence
Government of Canada

Dear David McGuinty,

You are copied on the email titled “**Post-WEF and Fighter jets should not come from U.S.**” that was sent to PM Carney at 1:32 PM, January 22, 2026.

This communication seeks to ensure that my concerns do not “fall between the chairs”, so to speak, and that I have correctly identified PM Carney or you as the person to whom my concerns are properly addressed.

After Donald Trump’s bizarre performance at and after the 2026 World Economic Forum, the publication schedule of the Information Research Board (IRB) has been changed to call your attention my recent letter, **Fighter jets should not come from U.S.**, which was published in the *Temiskaming Speaker* on January 21, 2026.

Fighter jets should not come from U.S.

Temiskaming Speaker, January 21, 2026. Page 5a.

Dear editor,

Several of my *Speaker* letters regarding the perilous state of Canada-U.S. relations (“Bait-and switch strategy could take flight,” Dec. 30, “Bringing home spending and jobs,” Dec. 10) have been brought to the attention of PM Carney and Defence Minister

David McGuinty, and are the basis of this letter on a bizarre Department of National Defence (DND) situation which is long overdue for critical media scrutiny at the national level.

Briefly, Trump and the Executive Branch with Republican support are using bellicose threats and deadly actions to bully other countries in America (e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Greenland-Denmark, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), and many other countries outside America, to do what Trump and his gang tell them to do for the benefit of Trump and his gang.

As a result, according to recent polls some 35 per cent of Canadians are concerned that Trump and his gang have plans to invade Canada, which brings me back to Carney, McGuinty, DND, and Canada's purchase of U.S. weapons systems, including the F-35 fighter jet.

Why oh why, I ask, are senior officials in DND who support buying the F-35, for example, still on the payroll when every aspect of the purchase – use, deployment, hangars, repairs, maintenance, spare parts – is totally controlled by a potential military adversary?

The evidence is overwhelming that the U.S. cannot be counted on as a trusted ally, and it boggles the mind that Trump supporters in DND have not been given the boot for gross incompetence compounded by blatant disloyalty to Canada.

Dr. Barry Wellar, C.M. (formerly of Latchford) Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, President, Information Research Board Inc.

Minister McGuinty, this communication will be combined with previous letters and other communications in an IRB report which advocates for the removal of all DND officers who support purchasing any weapons system controlled by the United States.

Further, the report will be asking the Government of Canada and specifically you as Minister of Defence, for an explanation as to why DND had or has on staff any official who recommended or recommends purchasing weapons systems, including F-35 fighter jets, which are ultimately under the control of a foreign government, much less one headed by a commander-in-chief who has uttered numerous threats challenging Canada's sovereignty and right to self-determination as a free and democratic society.

Many posts by international observers as well as those from Canada and United States make it abundantly clear that under no circumstances, none, should Canada give any consideration to purchasing F-35 jets.

I urge you to make that position known at the earliest moment to Canadians and internationally.

Mr. McGuinty, Canadians and citizens of the world deserve no less from you as Minister of Defence after PM Carney's stalwart presentation and responses to questions at WEF.

Respectfully yours,

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

Comment on Exhibit 10. The WEF performance by PM Carney provides sturdy coattails for Minister McGuinty to use in any discourse with U.S. officials about the F-35.

And, conversely, the maladroit performance by Trump at the WEF and afterwards strengthens the argument in the minds of Canadians (as well as in the minds of people in many other countries) for saying no on anything to do with the F-35.

The word "trust" as in "lack of trust" features in many broadcast media stories.

Further, the Carney performance makes it clear that the time is overdue when McGuinty should have cleaned house at DND and removed all officials who are on board with procuring fighter jets from a hostile country whose leaders have publicly made numerous threats against Canada. **(20)**

It is therefore an apparent breach of privilege as well as a breach of duty for a DND official to choose to side with Trump's erratic ramblings on a national defence topic.

However, stronger words such as sedition and treason come into play on a weapons system decision that could critically compromise Canada's national security and, consequently, its sovereignty.

D. A Brief Comment on Procurement of the Saab Gripen

The focus of this report is the U.S.-made F-35, and we return to that theme in section E after a one-sentence paragraph about the possible procurement of the Saab Gripen, a rival fighter jet which has received consideration by DND officials.

The Saab Gripen option is an option in the true sense of the word, in that if the Saab Gripen is procured by Canada, then decisions about use, deployment, repairs, hangars, maintenance, etc., are made solely by Canada.

E. A Brief Comment on U.S Control over the F-35 as a “Game-Enders”

The materials in Section C affirm that on its face the notion of Canada procuring the U.S.-made F-35 makes no sense for one reason which amounts to an absolute truth of such magnitude that it cannot be denied on rational grounds.

As explicitly and repeatedly noted here but downplayed in some procurement reports and not mentioned in others, is that United States government retains control over all aspects of the F-35’s use, deployment, repairs, spare parts, maintenance, hangar facilities, etc.

That condition imposed by the U.S. government is a game-ender, because Canada’s pursuit of sovereignty, self-determination, self-reliance, and international standing as a free and democratic society means that Canada must categorically and absolutely reject any arrangement which places the country and its institutions and citizens in a servile or subservient position vis-a-vis any country for military or other reasons.

F. Let’s Make a Deal

U.S. broadcast media and social media are already pumping the tires to promote/propagandize the F-35 spin, but that is a vain hope at best regardless of which side of the border you occupy.

Regardless of any momentary sweeteners that might be proffered, too much baggage already litters the deal file to wilfully entertain that notion. The ruptured NAFTA and CUSMA deals are textbook cases in point of the things that can go wrong when Canada enters into deals controlled by United States, and there is no reasonable expectation that things would change with an F-35 deal controlled by U.S. **(21)**

Many Canadians are astutely aware, I believe the evidence shows, that when it comes to the U.S. side of the bargaining table, control means control, period, and deals involving NAFTA and CUSMA speak eloquently to that reality. As we have learned to our great dismay during Trump terms of office, some deals are not worth the paper that they are written on, and that is often bad news for business, such as when trade and tariff agreements are thrown into disarray.

However, the significance of Canada’s sovereignty and pursuit of self-determination as a nation are so far out of the realm of deal-making that it verges on delusional to even

mention deal-making in the same paragraph as sovereignty, nationhood, and self-determination.

Returning to the game-ender point since it appears that it must be repeated often to register with those who need to be told repeatedly that “I meant what I said”, a game-ender is a game-ender, as in “It’s over”. For Canada to control its destiny it must control its military procurement decisions and outcomes, and that includes rejecting the U.S.-controlled F-35. Hardly rocket science.

G. Core Findings

There are three core findings in this report, and they cut to the chase in deconstructing other reports regarding procurement matters in general and those involving the F-35 in particular.

First, as long as the F-35 is under U.S. control in any way, shape, or form regarding use, deployment, hangar facilities, maintenance, spare parts, or any other strategic, tactical, or operational aspect, it poses a direct and existential threat to Canada’s sovereignty and paths of self-determination and self-reliance as a free and democratic society. The U.S. control factor is a game-ender for the F-35 and was a game-ender before receiving any kind of consideration whatsoever.

Second, in view of the direct and existential threat to Canada’s sovereignty, self-determination, and self-reliance presented by F-35 weapons systems controlled by the U.S. government, it is necessary to remove from the Government of Canada any DND official who recommends procurement of the F-35.

Third, given the game-ending control issue that negates the F-35, it should have only been momentarily on the table.

An inquiry is needed to ascertain the persons, forces, and dynamics that kept the F-35 in play long after its game should have ended. That inquiry will help preclude further weapons system procurement fiascos by DND and the Government of Canada.

H. Conclusion

The premise of this report is stated in the title, **Sovereign Canada Means NO to the U.S.-Controlled F-35**.

The premise is supported by letters to the editor, *Temiskaming Speaker*, and the letters and questions about the validity of the letters supporting the premise have been submitted to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Defence Minister David McGuinty.

In addition, numerous scans have been undertaken of DND and broadcast media productions in searches for substantive counters to the premise.

No counters have been located but, if they exist, we invite them being brought to our attention.

In the meantime, we close by repeating the three core findings.

First, as long as the F-35 is under U.S. control in any way, shape, or form regarding use, deployment, hangar facilities, maintenance, spare parts, or any other strategic, tactical, or operational aspect, it poses a direct and existential threat to Canada's sovereignty and to this country's paths of self-determination and self-reliance as a free and democratic society.

The bottom line, therefore, is that when put up against sovereignty the U.S. control factor is a game-ender for the F-35 and was a game-ender before receiving any kind of consideration whatsoever.

Which brings us to a matter of irony, which is an apt way to address a matter of U.S. contradiction that apparently has registered with Canadians and international observers, but escapes Trump and crew.

That is, on the one hand Trump and crew have repeatedly stated that U.S. needs nothing from Canada, and yet on a daily basis Trump and crew combine a mix of threats and pleadings for Canada to procure the F-35.

Clearly, Trump and crew do not get it, or choose to get it, when Canadians say

**I meant what I said, and I said what I meant.
Canada's sovereign, one-hundred percent.**

Second, in view of the direct and existential threat to Canada's sovereignty, self-determination, and self-reliance presented by the purchase of F-35 weapons systems controlled by the U.S. government, it is necessary to remove from the Government of Canada any DND official who recommends procurement of the F-35.

This finding involves the matter of trust, and with sovereignty at risk Canadians must be able to have absolute trust in the DND officials who are dealing with U.S. and other countries regarding fighter jet procurement, use, deployment, spare parts, maintenance, etc. That is not currently the case.

Third, given the game-ending control issue that negates the F-35, it should have only been momentarily on the table.

An inquiry is needed to ascertain the persons, forces, and dynamics that kept the F-35 in play long after its game should have ended. That inquiry will help preclude further weapons system procurement fiascos by DND and the Government of Canada.

I. Endnotes

1. The planned publication schedule for this component of Canada-U.S. relations research was set in October 2025 for September 2026. However, the 2026 World Economic Forum in January 2026 was cause for rapid and significant changes to the relationship. As a result, interim reports are produced early on for input to a comprehensive report now planned for publication in September-October 2026.
2. A Google search using the phrase Carney and WEF 2026 yields 14,400,000 results, and a search using the phrase Trump and WEF 2026 yields 54,200,000 results, so there is no need for me to inform the reader about coverage of the event. There are many differences in the results beside the numbers of entries. For example, a sample-based content analysis of the search results reveals a strong pattern that Trump's large numbers are based on perceptions that his comments are banal, trivial, goofy, silly, trivial, empty, childish, juvenile, flatulent, etc., with no substantive consequence. That general perception of mental, emotional and social instability is an incontrovertible basis for Canada to avoid at all costs a weapons system procurement relationship with U.S. if U.S. controls the system(s).
3. When Canadian broadcast media carry an abundance of partisan comments in news stories, some Canadian social media channels thrive on disseminating false claims and reports. Further, many Canadians have access to both U.S. broadcast and social media outlets, and many of those outlets are purveyors of messages pumped out by Trump and his crew. The bottom line is that Canadians are seriously challenged to sort and sift through all the noise to get to Canada's fighter jet procurement signal. As one of thousands of cases in point, the column 'Insults add to turbulence over U.S. built fighter jets' (<https://ottawacitizen.com/public-service/defence-watch/us-ambassador-canada-f35-order>, and [archive.ph](#)) is loaded with concerns, questions, and opinions, as well as innuendo, insults, challenges, and threats, all of which are just noise if the signal is sovereignty, sovereignty, sovereignty and F-35 noise is much ado about nothing.
4. If sovereignty rules, then the F-35 is a non-starter due to the U.S. control factor, but there are still far too many unasked and unanswered questions regarding how Canada got to the current situation, which seems aptly described as a fiasco. I reject the idea that those who caused the mess can just walk away, quite possibly to mess again, so the word "inquiry" comes to mind.

5. My own experience in these matters in Canada began when I joined the federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs (MSUA) in 1972, including appointments as urban information coordinator and senior policy advisor in the days of PM Pierre Trudeau and Secretary Bill Teron. That experience has been confirmed by politicians and bureaucrats at all levels, as well by citizens and journalists across Canada.

6. Comments which have reached Internet meme proportions inform that in a post-WEF 2026 telephone conversation, PM Carney informed U.S. President Donald Trump, “I meant what I said”.

If that phrase sparked a childhood memory, then the reader may be recalling *Horton Hatches the Egg* (Dr. Seuss) and his character affirmation:

I meant what I said, and I said what I meant.
An elephant’s faithful, one-hundred percent.

For the purposes of this report, we offer a variation with apologies in advance to Dr. Seuss and PM Carney:

**I meant what I said, and I said what I meant.
Canada’s sovereign, one-hundred percent.**

There are many ironies at play here, including the moniker assigned to Trump (TACO – Trump Always Chickens Out), but it could be that what PM Carney decides to do about the F-35 could carry on directly and without change to all procurement decisions involving U.S. weapons systems that remain under total U.S. control after sale.

7. Canada’s Department of National Defence leadership has been subject to numerous criticisms over the past decade, and during the Trump time in office (2016-2020, and 2024-present) criticisms have grown sharper about our continuing close military ties with that country, even in the face of Trump’s abusive, obnoxious, and vacuous language, and what many see as the hostility of a five-time deferment seeker due to bone spurs. Terms used to describe the continuing affinity of DND leadership to stick with U.S. counterparts include laziness, old boys’ network, comfort zone, and servility.

8. Information Research Board reports on the ‘cone of silence’ in governments at all levels include [Interim Report 18. Invoking the Code of Conduct to Publicly Oblige City of Ottawa Politicians to Demonstrate Due Regard for Transparency and Accountability](#); [Interim Report 19. Nomination for the 2020 Code of Silence Award: City of Ottawa Supporting Evidence – Reports from the Pilot Study Chronicling the Use of Transparency and Accountability as Political Buzzwords, and as Drivers Ensuring the Standard of Access to Public Records in Canada is Best Practice](#); [Interim Report 20.](#)

[Nomination for the 2020 Code of Silence Award: City of Ottawa Supporting Evidence – Communications to Mayor and Councillors that Received ‘The Silent Treatment’; Interim Report 21. Nomination for the 2020 Code of Silence Award: City of Ottawa Supporting Evidence – Media Stories That Indicate a Code of Silence Has Been Adopted by Members of Council; Interim Report 25. City of Ottawa Mayor and Councillors, 2022-2026: Do You Agree that Citizens Are Entitled to Free, Easy, Timely, and Direct Online Access to the Public Records Held by the City of Ottawa? Survey #2; Interim Report 26. Events Between Survey #1 and Survey #2 Which Could Affect City of Ottawa Politicians’ Respect for Trust, Transparency, and Accountability, or Citizens’ Access to Public Records; Interim Report 27. Implications of the “Old Gang” of Non-Respondent Councillors Ignoring Calls to Improve Trust, Transparency, Accountability, and Public Access to Public Records; Interim Report 28. Implications of the “New Gang” of Non-Respondent Councillors Ignoring Calls to Improve Trust, Transparency, Accountability, and Public Access to Public Records; Interim Report 26. Events Between Survey #1 and Survey #2 Which Could Affect City of Ottawa Politicians’ Respect for Trust, Transparency, and Accountability.](#)

9. Records are records and information is information. Many governments treat requests for records as requests for information, which too often is a nonsense claim designed to make gaining access to records difficult. DND has frequently engaged in this stalling tactic. For discussion of the records v. information distinction see for example [Interim Report 14. Asking the Question: Is Freedom of Information Legislation a Citizens’ Conduit to Public Records, or an Institutional Barrier to Public Records?](#) and [Interim Report 15. Identifying Tactics Used by Politicians to Restrict Citizens’ Access to Public Records.](#)

10. Broadcast media and social media statements about biased positions of DND officials favouring F-35 procurement have been floating around in various forms for months, but no news that could be confirmed as authentic has been found about actions taken to move them out of DND much less totally out of the federal government. Replies to communications in this regard to PM Carney and DND Minister McGuinty have not been received prior to publication.

11. Previous IRB surveys include asking federal, provincial, and municipal politicians if they agree that citizens are entitled to free, easy, timely, and direct online access to federal, provincial, and municipal records, respectively. The response rate for a question dealing with a cornerstone of a free and democratic society makes a mockery of the image of Canada as a free and democratic society. It is therefore highly unlikely that even a dozen of Canada’s 343 Members of Parliament would respond to questions about bias among those at DND who may be involved in weapons systems procurement.

12. That could be seen as a time-consuming effort, but it is possible that critics for opposition parties have gone down this research road. However, if they are concerned about being hoist on their own petards, then they are likely to leave this matter alone and let others do any heavy lifting.

13. With broadcast media coming up short, we conducted a brief test run of social media. However, our approach produced too much noise and too little signal to support its use. Others might have more success.

14. My regard for broadcast media began to take root during graduate school days at Northwestern University and expanded into a lengthy daily practice during my time at Urban Affairs, 1972-1979, when I accessed broadcast media reports (newspapers, radio, television) multiple times most days of most weeks. Further, during 30 years of university teaching and research, broadcast media productions were included in course readings, course assignments, and contract research reports. An illustrative newspaper-based report combining academic research, teaching, and research in the public interest is *Newspapers as a Source of Fact and Opinion on Pedestrians' Safety, Comfort, Convenience: A Keyword-Based Literature Search and Review*. It was published in 2000, and copies were widely distributed in Canada, U.S., and abroad. It is available at many university and municipal libraries, possibly including that of the City of Ottawa which funded the research project and publication of the report.

15. In the spirit of full disclosure and revealing a spot of good fortune, I am a former resident of and have retained connections with the Temiskaming, Ontario area and have been a *Speaker* online subscriber for many years. Further, I have maintained a professional association with past editor Gordon Brock and current editor Steve Laroque that began decades ago.

16. Reasons were not received for their decisions, and I have not yet encountered a letter or column on this topic in those papers. However, since media coverage of Canada's military capability in the face of verbal "sabre rattling" by Donald Trump regarding Arctic-related geopolitical issues is extensive, the lack of letters seems odd to say the least. If I missed something, I invite being informed of pertinent productions.

17. Many channels of social media are populated with contradictory accounts of the fighter jet saga, which compounds the problem of accurately keeping track of the jet fighter story in a timely manner. We only have sufficient resources for selective, regional daily spot checks, but it does not appear that our research findings are compromised.

18. That email was sent because of previous negative experiences, such as no notice of letters not being published, and published after expected. Further, the Citizen advises

that it is to be the sole recipient of letters. As a result, if letters sent to the Citizen are not published for whatever reason, they are not to be sent to another outlet.

19. As Google searches reveal, 'erratic' at 4,760,000 results is one of many terms with more than 1,000,000 hits that are used to describe Trump's low-level mental capacity with many other similar terms including cognitive decline (7,440,000) getting traction during and after the Davos WEF meeting. Those numbers are consistent with findings in the 2020 report, [DOES DONALD TRUMP HAVE THE KNOW-HOW TO SAVE THE U.S.A.?](#), which reveal that Trump's non-science approaches to knowing (authority, everyday experience (common sense), intuition, revelation) come up very short when logical thinking is needed to deal with complex situations, or to match wits with intelligent, non-sycophantic people sitting on the other side of the table. In those cases, as in Davos, bluster is a sign of weakness, not of strength, and in Trump's case there is no end of bluster.

20. While not necessarily the key to enlightenment, a longstanding rule of thumb for presentations is to tell those in attendance what you are going to tell, tell them what you said at the outset that you would tell them, and then close by telling them again what you told them. Following that rule of thumb, it is stated yet again that because the F-35 fighter is controlled by U.S., which is a foreign government, the F-35 does not qualify for procurement because it does not meet the ABSOLUTE CONDITION of serving Canadian sovereignty, Canadian self-determination, Canadian self-reliance, and Canadian security.

21. Trump is often mentioned in these promotions by members of his White House crew, Fox News, and others in his service. However, seemingly innumerable published comments refer to Trump in unflattering terms such as blowhard, conman, grifter, felon, fraud, liar, etc., that are well-known to Canadians who have one of the most educated and Internet-connected populations in the world. Trump's erratic and self-serving outbursts that are frequently characterized as inane have minimal traction in Canada, even among our limited number of MAGA-types when he blusters about the U.S. under his authoritarian regime.

J. Acknowledgements

With much appreciation thanks are given to:

- Craig MacAulay for proofreading assistance.
- Sam Herold, a University of Ottawa alumnus and one of my former students (Geography, Environmental Studies, and Geomatics) who made valuable contributions to this report through his text formatting, graphic design, and technical assistance.