



“America is More than the U.S.”

**Information Research Board
Letter to the Editor
Temiskaming Speaker, October 22, 2025**

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1. Report Objective

The United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States component of the Information Research Board program has three interrelated elements involving Canada's politicians, members of Canada's broadcast (and print) media community, and Canadians. **(1)**

This report describes the research design and research implications of a letter to the editor titled "America is not the U.S." Please see Exhibit 1 for the letter and publication details.

At the date of the letter's publication (October 22, 2025), several research activities and productions were in progress, and the letter serves as a link to draw the three elements together in this production.

By this approach, politicians, members of the broadcast and print media community, and citizens are simultaneously informed about how the letter contributes to making the argument that it is wrong for politicians and members of the broadcast and print media to use 'America' in public statements solely about people and entities in or from United States.

This report has two core parts, Background and Foreground.

2. Background

Previous engagements with Canadian politicians, members of the broadcast and print media community, and citizens over a number of years shaped the content and the design of the letter to the editor. Several dozen documents arising from those engagements in recent years may be viewed at <https://wellar.ca/informationresearch/Publications.html>,

and references to numerous documents produced in years past may be viewed at https://wellar.ca/wellarconsulting/BWELLAR_C.V._JULY%2031_2016.pdf.

Links are provided to assist readers in directly gaining access to productions which are specific to statements in this text.

Sections A, B, and C briefly comment on the respective contributions of politicians, broadcast media, and citizens to the letter to the editor in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1. Letter to the Editor, Temiskaming Speaker, October 22, 2025
"America is More than the U.S."**

America is more than the U.S.

U.S. ambassador Cornelius Piet (Pete) Hoekstra does not like Canadians saying, "elbows up" (Speaker editorial cartoon, Oct. 1) in response to challenges from U.S. politicians, interest groups, social media sites, etc.

If that polite call to arms bothers Mr. Hoekstra, he may get quite rattled by the recent Information Research Board (IRB) report, [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#),

Five facts establish that United States is not America, and America is not United States.

- America consists of 34 countries including United States, so United States represents only about 3% of America's countries plus Greenland.
- The area of America is in the vicinity of 42,550,000 km², and the area of continental United States is about 9,800,000 km², which makes the United States' share of America less than 25%.
- The physiographic or physical geography characteristics of United States are different from those of every other country in America.
- There are innumerable social, cultural, lingual, political, racial, legal, criminal, institutional, governmental, financial, economic, educational, demographic, and technological characterizations which differentiate between U.S. and the other 33 countries as well as Greenland.
- There are 5,000 kms of America beyond the northern U.S. border to Kaffeklubben Island, Greenland, and 7,500 km of America beyond the southern U.S. border to Aguila Islet, Chile.

Obviously, United States is not America, and America is not United States.

I look forward to our politicians and broadcast media making that factual distinction: United States = United States, and America = America, but United States is not America in any way, shape, or form, far from it.

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

A. Politicians

The first research activity involving politicians is the publication in October, 2025, [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#).

Derivation of the five factual statements in the letter (see Exhibit 1) is discussed in detail in that report, and the statements describing the facts have due regard for lessons learned about writing texts for politicians at all levels over more than five decades. **(2)**

In general, lessons learned include keeping texts as simple as conditions permit, avoid using mathematics and statistics, provide graphical examples to support qualitative and quantitative materials, present materials in such a way that they can be readily incorporated in statements by politicians, and deal with topics that are likely to be of interest to voters.

Further, and credit to the editor and/or headline writer, the letter title "America is more than the U.S." should provoke the curiosity of Canadian politicians during a time of tariff and trade duress which is affecting Canada's relations with United States and many other countries in America as well as elsewhere in many parts of the world

And the second background activity involving politicians is the Survey of Canadian Politicians on Using "America" in Public Statements Solely about People and Entities in or from United States. It was launched in early October 2025, with a due date for responses in early January 2026. **(3)**

The survey design and schedule allow an abundance of time for replies.

That approach takes into account politicians' frequent claim about existing commitments and busy schedules as reasons for not replying in a timely manner to inquiries by citizens, members of broadcast and print media, researchers, and others with a need to know promptly about time-sensitive public matters. **(4)**

As survey reviewers noted, a three-month response interval should not be required by any politician to respond to a survey about federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal politicians wrongly substituting America for United States in public statements.

Consequently, the survey serves as a window into the level of respect that the surveyed politicians hold for citizens, as well as for the level of regard held by politicians for their performance criteria, diagnostics, characterizations, features, qualities, etc., contained in Table 1 in [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#). **(5)**

For the convenience of readers, Table 1 is repeated here. It appears fair to say that based on the terms in Table 1 which politicians themselves use to characterize their qualities, it is reasonable to expect prompt responses to the survey questions, all of which are designed to be readily comprehended by any Canadian politician.

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

It goes without saying but bears repeating, that for all the terms in Table 1 citizens attach the condition of timeliness to many of their asks of politicians.

That is also the case of this survey, which asks Canadian politicians a small set of questions about using America in public statements which are about people or entities solely in or from United States. **(6)**

The letter to the editor therefore serves as a connector for politicians which links the initial production ([Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#)) and the survey production scheduled for publication in February 2026.

B. Broadcast Media Community

Broadcast media productions were scanned as a primary source of public statements by politicians about using America when referring solely to people and entities in or from United States.

And, shortly after the task of scanning broadcast media for statements by or attributed to politicians, the inventory of statements about substituting America for U.S. or United

States was expanded to include the substitution of America for U.S. or United States in public statements by members of the broadcast media community.

The first research activity involving members of Canada's broadcast media community was publication in late October 2025 of the report, [Canadian Broadcast Media Wrong to Use 'America' in Productions Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#).

Statements by the broadcast media community about its principles (See Table B in [Canadian Broadcast Media Wrong to Use 'America' in Productions Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#)), as well as personal experiences based on more than 1,000 broadcast and print media reportage engagements (e.g., interviews, public meetings, columns, letters) directed the design of the letter in the Temiskaming Speaker.

During the coming weeks the letter will be incorporated in a survey of broadcast and print media members to examine the reasons behind their widespread practice of substituting America for United States in productions about people and entities solely in or from United States.

The second pre-letter research activity involving members of Canada's broadcast media community was to try to ascertain the degree to which those responsible for broadcast media productions demonstrated deep geographic knowledge of America's climates, cultures, demographics, economies, ethnicities, geopolitics, histories, industries, physiographic regions, political systems, rural areas, tectonic zones, urban regions, urban systems, weather systems, etc.

Numerous searches failed to locate even one broadcast media production that came close to matching any of the geography-based factual statements in Exhibit 1.

Further, while maps are included in almost all weather-related and most climate change-related reports, no map was located which portrayed America as being the entirety of the western hemisphere extending from Kaffeklubben Island, Greenland in the north to Aguila Islet, Chile in the south. (See Figure 1)

Which brings me to Donald Trump and his remark in 2016 about looking at a map and having thoughts about Canada. The clip is provided by the Meidas Touch channel.

The link containing the Trump-map story about Canada becoming part of U.S. is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8K1m04c6rk>. (7)

Any of the five facts in the letter establishes categorically that United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States. (Again, see Figure 1 for geographic context.)

Figure 1. America is More than the U.S., Much, Much More.



Further, bundling the facts in a package seems to make an overwhelmingly obvious case that it is wrong for Canadian broadcast media to use America in productions solely about people or entities in or from United States.

And yet many members of Canadian broadcast media do so, and all the while Trump looks at a map with Canada in it and his speculative notion turns to America (that is, United States) expanding into Canada, seemingly without any Canadian broadcast media coverage. **(8)**

This line of thought is resumed in the Foreground section.

C. Citizens

Citizens are the third group pertinent to this project, with emphasis on citizens who have been actively engaged in supporting Canadian politicians in the tariff and trade attack led by erratic U.S. President Donald Trump and his appointees, and the Republican Party.

The letter contains five statements of fact which are readily confirmed by citizens.

It is my experience that the majority of citizens are a reliable test bed for presenting an argument based on facts, and feedback on the letter has not disappointed. **(9)**

The bottom line is that informed citizens, and especially readers of community newspapers, welcome communications that engage them in local, regional, national, and international conversations. **(10)**

That said, perhaps my being from the area promotes supportive feedback, including communications from former classmates 65-70 or more years ago.

Moreover, the facts are deemed to be so obvious, so self-evident, especially when put together as a package, that some citizens see the letter as prompting a head-shaker of a question: How can any politician who does not know that United States \neq America and America \neq United States expect to be believed about claims regarding tariffs, trade, and related issues? (Again, see Figure 1 for geographic context.)

Second, many Canadian citizens have become engaged in distinguishing United States from Canada, from the rest of America, and from many other countries in the world with their wallets, credit cards, bank transfers, fund purchases, stock purchases, media messaging, travel plans, and so on.

Ways that citizens distinguish United States from Canada, and from the rest of America and the world, include the following activities:

- boycotting U.S. corporate operations in United States and in Canada;
- cutting back on purchases of retail goods and services from U.S. corporations with subsidiary and branch plant facilities in Canada;
- changing travel plans from U.S. destinations to locations in other countries;
- investing in Canadian stock offerings;
- switching purchases of goods and services from U.S. sources to those in Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Guatemala, Argentina, etc.;
- writing letters to editors and engaging in radio, television, and Internet channels with pro-Canada remarks;
- disseminating the "Elbows up" message with gusto on Jumbotron, channels, and at public demonstrations.

The letter takes those activities into account by framing the statements in factual ways that resonate with regular Canadians.

3. Foreground

This is a very dynamic research milieu which is characterized by moving targets and a great deal of uncertainty that comes with working in the current Canada-U.S. geoeconomic and geopolitical domains.

As a result, the research activities anticipated to complete the project are best described as indicative for politicians, broadcast and print media members, and citizens.

A. Politicians

Three post-letter activities involving Canadian politicians are anticipated at this writing.

First, since its publication October 22, 2025, the letter to the editor (Exhibit 1) has been sent to politicians in the survey group, as well as to politicians not in the original survey group.

Objectives of these communications include expanding the size of the surveyed group in general, as well as stratifying the surveyed group by political position (e.g. ministers versus non-ministers, mayors versus councillors), by region, and by size of municipality, all to increase the robustness of survey findings.

Second, a subset of politicians included in the first survey will be selected for a second survey in which they will be asked about their continued substitution of America for United States, even though they have been informed that the substitution is factually wrong on multiple accounts. This activity involves monitoring politicians' broadcast media statements, so choosing the subset of politicians for the survey will be a difficult research design challenge.

Plans are to launch this survey in November or December 2025, with a response due date in January or February, and publication of the survey report within four weeks after the close of the response window.

Third, leaders of political parties and heads of councils will be surveyed about what they have done or not done, and why or why not, to require or urge that party and council members use the term America to refer to America, and United States to refer to United States, and to not interchange the terms in public statements.

Our intention is to launch this survey in March or April 2026, with a response due date in May or June, and publication of the survey report within four weeks after the close of the response window.

B. Broadcast and Print Media (11)

One post-letter activity is completed, and six post-letter activities involving corporate and individual members of Canada's broadcast and print media community are anticipated at this writing.

First, the report [Canadian Broadcast Media Wrong to Use 'America' in Productions Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#) is posted and will be brought to the attention of the broadcast and media community, politicians, and to the attention of citizens in due course.

Second, the letter to the editor (Exhibit 1) will be sent to a selection of corporate and individual members of Canada's broadcast and print media community.

Third, the link to the report, "America is More than the U.S.", Information Research Board Letter to the Editor, Temiskaming Speaker, October 22, 2025, will be sent to national, regional, and local members of Canada's broadcast and print media community.

That communication will include mention of the report previously sent to politicians ([Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#)), as well as a 'heads up' that a survey will follow in

the near future asking broadcast and print media members about their practice of substituting America for United States.

Fourth, this report will be sent to a selection of Canadian corporate and individual members of Canada's broadcast and print media community in due course.

Fifth, a survey of corporations and individuals of the broadcast and print media community will be undertaken to learn their responses to questions about their continued substitution of America for United States, even though they have been informed on repeated occasions that the substitution is factually wrong.

Sixth, individuals from the broadcast and print media community included in the first survey will be selected for a second survey regarding continued substitution of America for United States, even though they have been informed that the substitution is factually wrong.

Seventh, leaders of broadcast and print media corporations will be surveyed about what they have done or not done, and why or why not, to insist or urge that Canadian politicians use the term America to refer to America, and United States to refer to United States, and to not substitute the terms.

C. Citizens

Two activities are currently foreseen. First, a pilot project is planned to address the failure of Canadian politicians at the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal levels to launch programs that formally engage citizens in the tariff and trade battle with Trump, *et al.*

Had that step been taken years ago, or even months ago, a citizen-oriented means might be in place to support this research. However, that is not the case, so only a very modest pilot study project is anticipated.

Drawing on many years of engagement in public participation projects, a pilot study will investigate the feasibility of involving public interest groups such as citizens' associations, community associations, homeowners' associations, neighbourhood groups, and local Facebook groups in the pilot study.

Second, a selection of broadcast and print media entities and members will be asked about assistance in disseminating information to citizens about the pilot study outlined above.

It is appropriate to close the Foreground Section with the reminder that due to the volatile tariff and trade discourse between Canada and U.S., and the mixed bag of

geopolitical concerns that make the news, the topics and schedules of research tasks and schedules are tentative.

Further, at the time of this writing consultations are being held about a corneal transplant. If the procedure is undertaken, then the surgery and recovery schedule may affect elements of the United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States component of the Information Research Board program.

4. Communications to Politicians, Broadcast Media, Citizens

At the time of this posting on the topic, United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States, seven emails have been sent or are in process of being sent to Canadian politicians, corporate and individual members of Canada's broadcast and print media community, and Canadian citizens through citizen-based public interest groups such as community associations and citizens associations.

The sent and in-process emails are briefly described as follows, and future emails will be added to future reports to track the research process for readers who seek such documentation for informational and/or methodological research design purposes.

i. The email titled, Report, Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States includes a link to the publication [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#), which provides context for the survey of Canadian federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal politicians asking about their use of "America" in public statements solely about people and entities in or from United States.

ii. The email to federal, provincial, territorial and municipal politicians containing the Temiskaming Speaker letter to editor, "America is more than the U.S.", provides a bridge for politicians between the first report and this report.

In addition, it enters the United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States component of the Information Research Board program into the broadcast and print media arena.

And it also serves as a test run for informing citizens about the United States ≠ America and America ≠ United States component of the IRB program.

iii. An email informing surveyed politicians and other politicians, members of the broadcast media community, and citizens about the report [Canadian Broadcast Media](#)

[Wrong to Use 'America' in Productions Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#), is in process.

iv. An email informing surveyed politicians and other politicians, members of the broadcast media community, and citizens about this report is scheduled for distribution in early December 2025.

5. Conclusion

For 250 years people and entities from United States have preempted the use of America as a proxy or substitute for United States. However, the geographical and geopolitical fact-based reality as demonstrated in [Canadian Broadcast Media Wrong to Use 'America' in Productions Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#) and [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#) is that United States \neq America and America \neq United States, far from it in many ways and on many levels.

Fortunately, and as noted in previous reports, our research is focussed on Canadian politicians, members of Canada's broadcast and print media community and Canadian citizens, and NOT people or entities in or from United States.

This report builds on the first two reports and, via the letter to the editor, "America is more than the U.S." which was published in the Temiskaming Speaker, it puts in place a production which can be used to communicate to Canadian politicians, members of Canada's broadcast and print media community, and Canadian citizens that United States \neq America and America \neq United States.

The near-end objective of this phase of United States \neq America and America \neq United States component of the Information Research Board program is to make a compelling argument that it is wrong for Canadian politicians and members of Canada's broadcast and print media to use 'America' in public statements solely about people or entities in or from United States.

This report contributes significantly to achieving that objective.

6. Endnotes

1. With the publication of the letter to the editor, the scope of the United States \neq America and America \neq United States component of the Information Research Board program is expanded into the print media domain, hence the (in print) insertion to this paragraph.

2. Interactions with Canadian politicians began in 1972 when I joined Canada's federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs (MSUA) and took on many dimensions through positions of senior research officer, urban information theme coordinator, director, and senior policy advisor until 1979. Engagements with politicians at all levels as a public interest researcher continue to the present day.

3. The three-month window for responding takes into account several factors, including the timeworn excuse that due to heavy schedules, prior commitments, etc., a response cannot be made. Seriously? Not ten minutes in thirteen weeks when Canada is in a "tariff and trade war" with United States, NOT the rest of America, and many Canadian politicians are wrongly substituting America for United States?

4. Another life lesson learned after almost 30 years of teaching university is that no matter how much time is available, many student assignments are completed by "pouring it on at the eleventh hour". Since this report is posted in week five (5) of a 13-week time span for responses, and zero responses pertaining to the survey questions have been received, perhaps the "eleventh hour syndrome" is alive and well on phones and in offices of Canadian politicians.

5. Based on previous surveys of federal, provincial-territorial, and municipal politicians by IRB, as well as reviews of outcomes of surveys and inquiries of politicians by other groups and individuals, it appears fair to say that the low-response performance of the surveyed politicians is highly indicative of politicians in general at all levels. Further, pre-survey comments by reviewers included a sense that despite the significance of the survey to current and future Canada-U.S. relations, Canadian politicians would gather under a "cone of silence" to avoid admitting or denying the practice of erroneously substituting America for United States.

6. Comments by reviewers include concerns about Canadian politicians at all levels who substitute America for United States. In brief, questions arise about what seems to be deficient knowledge among politicians about world geography and the significance of geography to the term geopolitics.

7. The location of the Trump-map section is the 22.57-25.22 time span. The spectacle of Trump using a Sharpie to re-draw the path of a hurricane on a weather map during his first term was revisited during discussions of his remark about Canada becoming the 51st state. The group caution was to keep Trump from getting anywhere near a paper map and a Sharpie or crayon if he is ever again in Canada while he is president.

8. This YouTube channel episode could be 'out there' in a Canadian broadcast media production and I missed it. An apology is extended if that is the case, and I welcome receiving publication details. For readers who viewed Prime Minister Mark Carney's

materials earlier in the video and noticed his references to "America", he received the survey in [Canadian Politicians Wrong to Use 'America' in Public Statements Solely about People or Entities in or from United States](#) and IRB awaits his response.

9. This comment refers to citizens whose opinions are driven by data, evidence, and sound logic, and not the products of ideologies or prejudices fed by "isms" such as anarchism, classism, cultism, fascism, racism, sexism and other that cause biased thoughts.

10. The Temiskaming Speaker is an award-winning community newspaper, and credit goes to the Speaker staff and readers for consideration given to the letter.

11. To recall endnote 1, due to time and resource constraints it was anticipated that the project would be limited to broadcast media. However, we are pleased that the scope of the survey can be expanded to include print media corporations and individuals.

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