

American Egoism and Canadian Angst: A letter to my northern kin

Our Readers Write

During a recent Instagram post where I eloquently lamented the confederacy of dunces currently pilfering our legal system and raping our system of jurisprudence?I was reminded by a former Canadian colleague and valued friend that my words might be a bit... personal and intended for family. To which I replied, "Absolutely! And you, my friend, are part of my family."

As a former executive at Husky IMS?Canada's industrial crown jewel in the plastics realm?I find myself both bewildered and exasperated at the antics of our current leadership. Canada, our ever-patient neighbor, has long welcomed us with open arms, rich traditions, and an unwavering loyalty that, quite frankly, we haven't always deserved. Having played a role in Husky's rise to a \$2 billion behemoth, I count that time as one of my proudest professional achievements. As Director of Sales Force Development and Best Practices, I cultivated deep, lasting relationships with some of the finest professionals I've ever known. I often commented that a walkabout through our halls was as if I was on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise amidst the accents, dialects, and nationalities?a welcome chorus of genius at work.

And yet, here we are?watching a shameful display of arrogance and ignorance directed at one of our most steadfast allies. Canada, a nation that has stood shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. through wars, crises, and global challenges, is now being disrespected by an administration that operates like a dysfunctional daycare. At the helm, we have an intellectual eunuch, propped up by a morally bankrupt billionaire and a misguided VP enthralled by the same reactionary, xenophobic policies that have emboldened Europe's far-right racists.

This reckless posture not only insults a trusted friend but also weakens America's credibility on the world stage. The hypocrisy is staggering. We love to invoke the ideals of democracy, mutual respect, and cooperation?so long as they suit our immediate interests. We wag our fingers at nations who undermine international agreements, yet our own leaders treat trade pacts like disposable napkins, tearing them up when it's politically expedient and expecting the world to fall in line. We boast about standing by our allies, yet we spit in the faces of those who have stood by us through thick and thin, all while thumping our chests about patriotism and strength.

The truth is, America's obsession with dominance is a thinly veiled insecurity. We demand unwavering loyalty from our partners yet offer them little but condescension in return. Canada has remained patient?sometimes to a fault. But patience should not be mistaken for weakness. It takes far more strength to remain principled in the face of arrogance than it does to wield bluster like a club.

I've often said that Canadians take their time responding to criticism. At first, I thought it was hesitation, but I came to realize?through years of working alongside them?that it's actually wisdom. They understand the value of measured thought before engagement. After all, as Twain suggested, "Better to remain silent and be considered a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."

So, to my Canadian family: please know this?your values, your integrity, and your commitment to mutual respect and responsibility stand tall, even as petulant insults and empty threats are hurled your way. The posturing of a fading empire cannot erase the formidable accomplishments you have built over generations. Remain steady, my friends. Some of us here still see you clearly?and hold you in the highest regard, as one of the finest and most principled nations in North America.

From Husky IMS, my pride and heart, to the broader Canadian ethos, I have witnessed first-hand the nation's strength and unwavering commitment to fairness and kindness. The lessons learned from my Canadian colleagues are many, and I cherish each one. They have shown me that respect is not just earned; it is an inherent virtue that reflects one's character and leadership. Canadians embody this virtue in their conduct and actions.

Canada, a beacon of resilience and sensibility, continues to inspire me. Their patience in the face of adversity is not weakness, but a profound demonstration of strength. While America grapples with its insecurities and flawed pursuit of dominance, Canada stands as

a testament to what true leadership looks like?one that values wisdom over bravado, integrity over deception, and unity over division.

My northern kin, you are a source of pride and admiration. Your steadfast commitment to principles and fairness is a guiding light in these tumultuous times. Know that your efforts do not go unnoticed, and your contributions to a better world are deeply appreciated. As we navigate these uncertain waters, let us remember that the bonds we share are stronger than the divisions that may arise.

In solidarity and with deep respect,

Michael Smith