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Canada Will Never be the 51st State

Our country Canada is the greatest country in the world. The true north strong and free. Our amazing country was formed, in part, as a resistance to American designs to control the continent. Sir John A Macdonald said he would fight to “give us a great, a united, a rich, an improving, a developing Canada, instead of making us a tributary to American laws, to American railways, to American bondage, to American tolls.”

Almost 160 years later, President Trump has made unjustified and illegal tariffs threats along with disrespectful threats to turn us into the 51st state.

Canadians have responded loudly. Flags are flying higher. We stand a bit straighter during our anthem. And the whole country stopped to watch our boys in red and white beat the Americans in an overtime thriller.

But sometimes it takes a threat to remind us of what we have and what we can become. Our people are united to defend the country we love.

We must respond with strength. And be prepared to use the leverage we have. If required, we should retaliate with tariffs of our own, but these must be thoughtful and carefully targeted at goods we don't need, can produce ourselves or buy from others. We should seek to minimize the impact on ourselves while maximizing the impact on the Americans.

100% of the proceeds of any counter-tariffs ought to reimburse businesses and workers that are directly impacted, and the rest should go as to tax cuts for Canadians. Government coffers should not be filled by any extra tariff revenues or be used to support unrelated government spending.

America needs our radar and our surveillance and ongoing cooperation to keep us both safe against international threats. Our minerals, uranium, oil, gas and hydro can propel our respective economies to immense prosperity.

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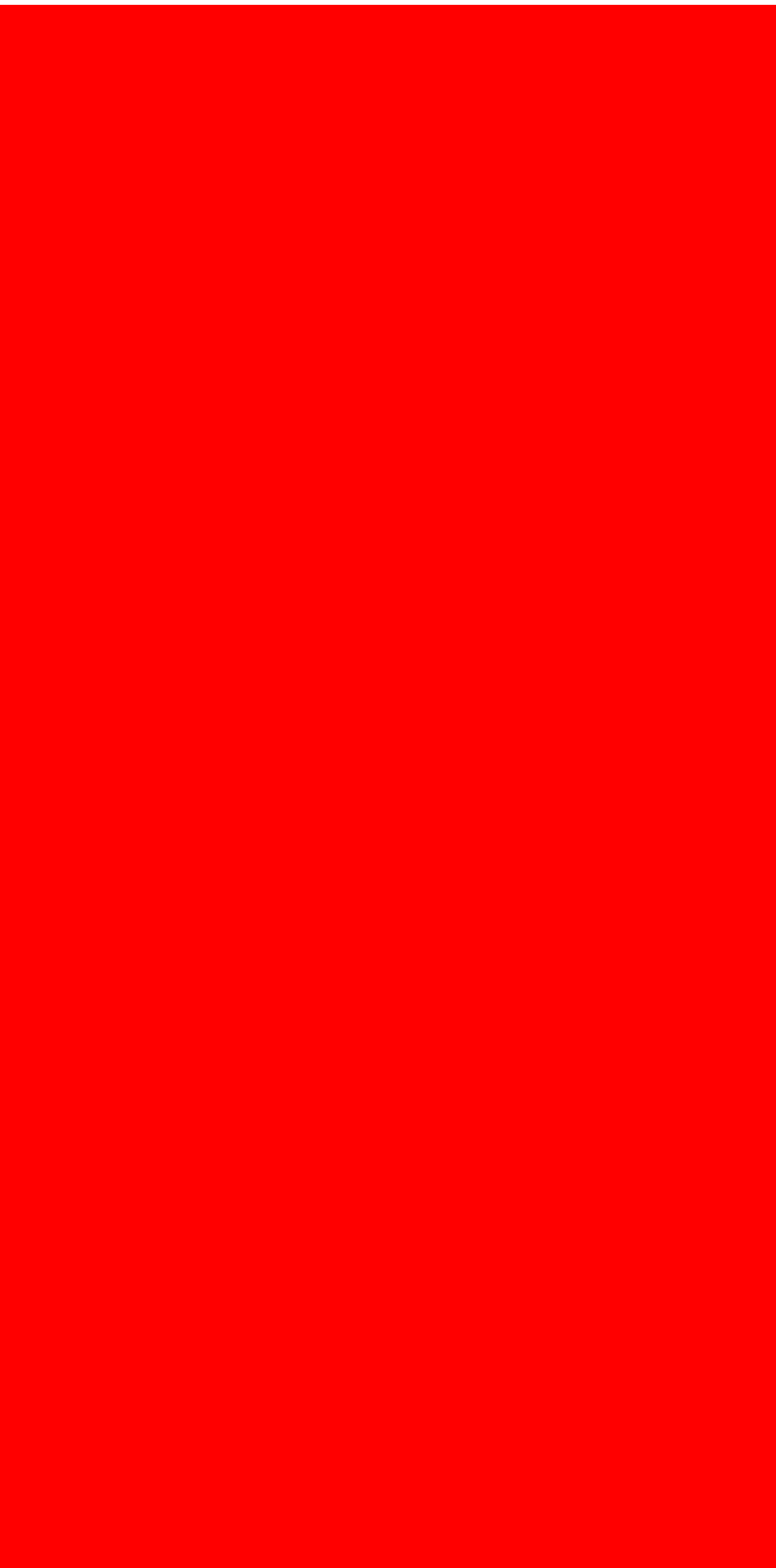
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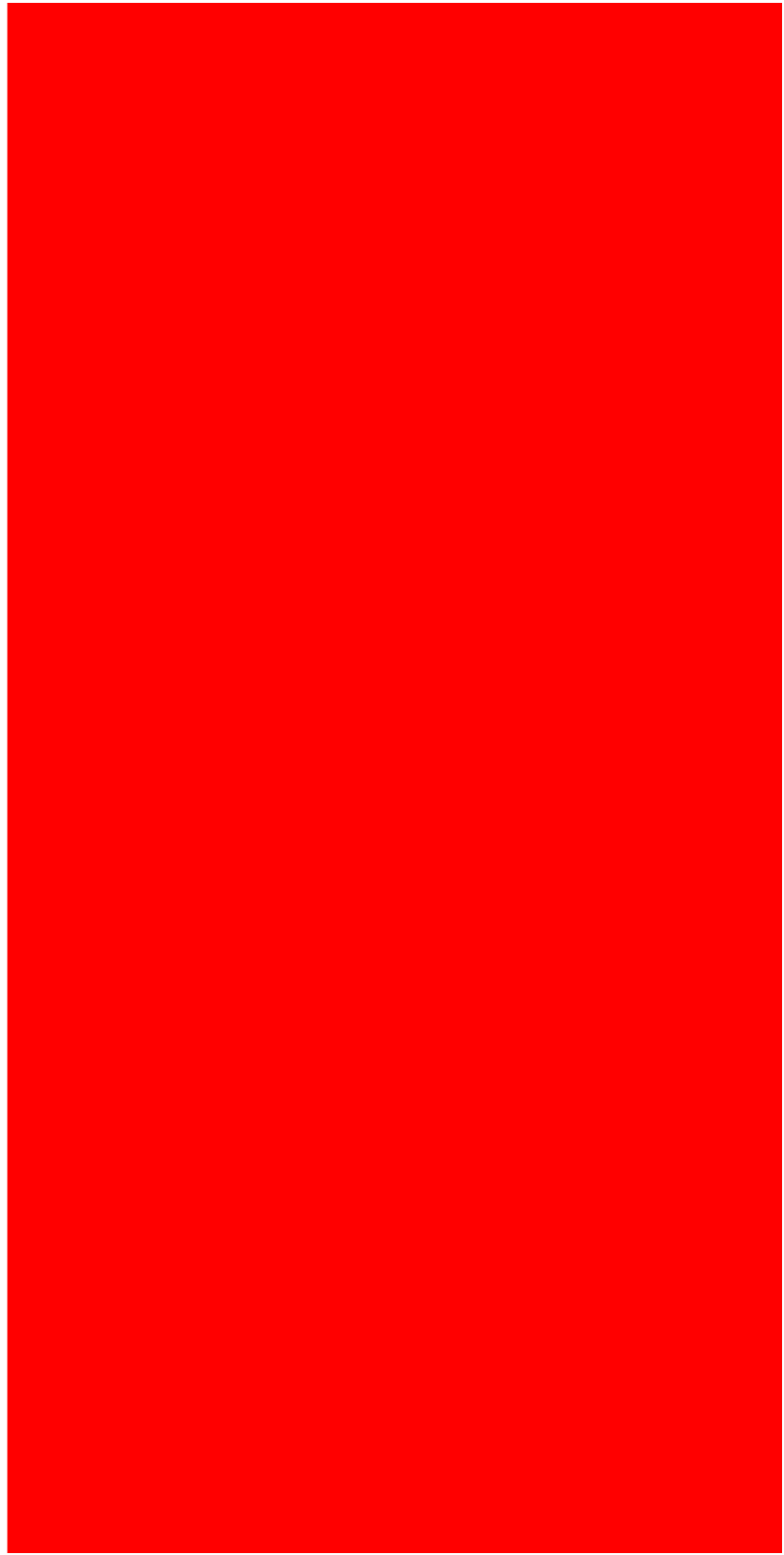
I encourage you to display the Canada flag on the inside of this paper in your home or business with pride!



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Of course, it is uncomfortable to consider what a broken friendship might mean, but we must have a plan. Winston Churchill has been quoted as saying you can count on Americans doing the right thing, after exhausting all other possibilities.

We have been a good neighbour to America. We fought on the same side of the same wars. We paid with Canadian lives and treasure to defend our mutual interests and western democratic values. Americans may have their grievances, and we have ours. But which other countries have had a relationship like ours? Who else would the Americans rather have as their neighbours?

We might be too polite, soft-spoken and humble for our own good. We are slow to anger and quick to forgive, but our kindness is not weakness.

We love our country and flag. We are a strong people with a proud history whose soldiers have proven fierce and victorious yet humble enough to not brag about their heroism. We are mild-mannered and made of steel.

Canada will never become the 51st state.

And we should be prepared to bear any burden and pay any price to protect our sovereignty and independence.

This is a wakeup call. To look inward and ask how we can strengthen our country. Self-reflection is healthy. It has been this desire to dream for a better future that helped build this great country. It is an unfinished masterpiece.

We need that collective focus on our future now. To help get our energy to markets, to remove internal trade barriers, reduce bureaucracy and taxes to build more homes faster and support an economy that will withstand threats from any one country.

We should be the wealthiest and most self-reliant economy in the world, given our natural riches. We have the 4th biggest supply of oil—yet we must import 179 million barrels of foreign oil every year. We are the 5th biggest supplier of natural gas but struggle to export it to countries that have explicitly asked for it – South Korea, Ukraine, Greece, Japan, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Taiwan, Philippines.

We should not let what is happening south of the border distract us from the challenges we have that deserve our attention regardless of who occupies the White House. Crime, taxes, fiscal responsibility and housing are all areas where we can and must do better. Being stronger at home first will result in being stronger on the world stage.

Complacency is not an option. We will face all of our challenges together. We may have disagreements along the way, but we can all agree that Canada will remain **united, and the true north strong and free.**

Sincerely, 

