

The world's laughing at Canada's 'peoplekind' political correctness. Lighten up

Millions of Americans regard Canadians as amiable dunces modifying English usage to allow for the most absurd sensibilities

by Conrad Black



The forces of political correctness are on the march in Canada not only on the main boulevards of life but along every trail. The addiction to it has become such a pandemic that Canadian news items of the latest triumphs of politically correct oppression furnish humorous closing items for American newscasts. In the past week, American news-watchers have been treated to a couple of the recent conquests of invincible Canadian political correctness. First came the change in the wording of the national anthem to gender neutrality with the change of "in all thy sons command" to "in all of us command."

The song is somewhat ambiguous in whether it exhorts Canadians to love their country or hails the spontaneous affection it has already generated from all "sons," which may reasonably be inferred to be all Canadians regardless of their sex. Unfortunately, when the clause that has been altered is quoted without context, as it has been in foreign newscasts, it appears that in our fervour of inclusiveness we have taken leave of all knowledge of syntax, and "us command" is a substitute for "our command" in a possessive sense. That would make it a candidate for inclusion in the transgender vocabulary University of Toronto students demanded be used by Prof. Jordan Peterson.

What is remarkable in the discussion of the lyrics of "O Canada" is not so much this change, which Liberal MP Mona Fortier thinks should be the subject of a national campaign of celebration and education, but the fact that the French wording, which asserts that Canadians, historically, know how to