Fact or Fiction

**Canada - A Smart Move?**

Canada sends people, America sends degrees. More than 820,000 Canadian-born individuals now live in the United States — equal to about 2% of Canada’s population. For decades, this southward flow has been cast as a “brain drain.” Yet the numbers suggest otherwise. Most of these moves reflect the lure of higher wages, bigger markets, and warmer winters — not necessarily the wholesale export of Canada’s most highly educated talent.

The American flow north is smaller, but smarter. Only about 340,000 American-born residents live in Canada — less than 1% of Canada’s population and barely 0.1% of the U.S. population. But their profile is striking: nearly nine in ten non-citizen Americans applying to immigrate to Canada as economic candidates hold graduate degrees. The U.S. may not export many people, but those it does are disproportionately professionals — PhDs, MBAs, and specialists ready to brave Canada’s winters in exchange for stability, healthcare, and opportunity.

So who is really exporting brains? The United States remains the more popular destination in raw numbers. But Canada has positioned itself as the “smart” destination — attracting highly educated talent from south of the border. And while America debates trillion-dollar “Golden Dome” defense systems, Canada already has its ultimate shield: winter. Subzero temperatures may keep the faint of heart away, but they have not deterred the resilient, the credentialed, and perhaps the clever.