



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

2011 saw us move forward on both our core activities and special activities as the following report will testify.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

President Julie Lindhout spoke on the ACC and NATO to 200 members of the Third Age Study Group in Guelph in January, and at a United Macedonian Diaspora reception in Markham on November 26.

DINNERS

Tribute Dinner – May 18, 2011 – Toronto Tribute Dinner celebrating 45 years of the Atlantic Council and the ongoing support of the Jackman Family.

Gala Dinner – A Gala dinner celebrating our internship program was held at the Albany Club on November 5, 2011.

NATO ECONOMY FORUM

Growing out of the NATO Economy Forum held in 2009, the ACC assisted the Ambassador of Albania to stimulate interest among Canadian business leaders and leaders in the Canadian-Albanian community to establish the Canada-Albania Business Council. The ACC is providing secretariat services for the CABC as well as to the Canadian Turkish Business Council. Both business councils were very active in 2011 under the able direction of Robert Baines and Richard Mabley respectively, with others helping at special events.

We also began working with the Ambassador of Georgia to promote business with Georgia. A major Business Forum will be held at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre on June 28, 2012.

56TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, TIRANA, ALBANIA

The ATA Assembly which was held in Tirana, Albania, was very successful. President Lindhout was the Rapporteur. She was also elected to the Executive Bureau of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA).

Thanks to Internship funding from the CIBC, the ACC was able to send one intern, Simon Miles, to Tirana for five weeks, and another, Alex Dhefto, for ten days, to help the Atlantic Council of Albania with the final preparation and running of the Assembly. The 2012 ATA Assembly will be held in Bucharest, Romania.

INTERN SPONSORSHIPS

As mentioned above, the ACC received funding from the **CIBC** as a new sponsor. We also received funding from **Scotiabank** in 2011. We are very thankful for these sponsorships as they enable us to compensate some of our interns for the excellent work they are doing. We have applied for these sponsorships again in 2012, and we would like to extend the number of sponsors in 2012.

ONGOING PROGRAM:

CONFERENCES

Spring Conference, April 12, 2011 – Toronto Spring Conference: "NATO's New Strategic Concept: Active Engagement, Modern Defence."

Fall Conference, November 22, 2011 – Ottawa – NATO's New Strategic Concept: An Alliance for the 21st Century.

Since 2011 was the year that NATO introduced a new Strategic Concept at the Lisbon Summit, both our conferences focused on analyzing the document and determining what it would mean for Canada. As the federal election was called during the time of our Spring Conference, and therefore, we were unable to have government representatives at that time,

the implications for Canada were presented by non-governmental experts. For the Fall Conference, however, we were able to have speakers from both DFAIT and DND, as well as the Canadian Forces.

ROUNDTABLES

The ACC hosted a large number of Roundtables in 2011 in Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. For 2012, we hope to have Roundtables in both Halifax and Vancouver as well.

Toronto

January 26 – **Dr. Ron Deibert**, Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs: “Geo-Politics of Cyberspace.”

February 10 – **Sven Spengemann**, Senior Constitutional Officer, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq: “Iraq 2005-2010: a Personal retrospective.”

February 16 – **Ligang Chen**, Consul General of China: “A New Chapter for Sino-Canadian Relations.”

March 10 – **Akin Kosetorunu**, Trade Commissioner, Consulate of Canada in Istanbul, Turkey: “Canada-Turkey Business Relations.”

September 8 – **Dr. Miloud Chennoufi**, Canadian Forces College: “NATO in the Middle East: The Arab Spring, a critical perspective.”

October 3 – **Dr. Brooke Smith-Windsor**, Senior National Representative – Canada, Deputy Director Research Division, NATO Defence College, Rome: “NATO: Towards Cooperative Security; prospects for NATO partnerships with UN and African Union.”

October 25 – **Robert Joshi**, Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation, **Charles Keizer**, Tory's LLP, **Andrew Mahut**, US Steel Canada: “Energy Security: The International Commitment to Developing Renewable Energy.”

December 6 – **Commander Craig Skjerpen**, former Commanding Officer, HMCS Charlottetown: “The Canadian forces’ Participation in the Libyan Mission”, in cooperation with the Canadian International Council.

Ottawa

February 11 – **Dr. Philippe Lagassé**, University of Ottawa, **Dr. Norman Hillmer**, Carleton University, **Paul Chapin**: “The New NATO Strategic Concept: A critical Perspective,” in collaboration with Carleton University.

June 14 – **Dr. Michael Atallah**, PCO, **Dr. Michael Baranick**, National Defence University, Washington, DC, **Thomas Juneau**, DND, Canada: “Arab Spring: An Update,” in collaboration with Carleton University.

September 20 – **Dr. Peter Jones**, University of Ottawa, **Dr. Houchan Hassan-Yari**, RMC, **Dr. Michael Atallah**, PCO: “The Arab Spring: Syria and the Levant,” in collaboration with the University of Ottawa.

Montreal

October 13 – Hosted by ACC Director, **Dr. Bernd Goetze** and **Dr. Khalid Medani**, McGill University, with **Dr. Rex Brynen**, McGill, **Dr. Imad Mansour**, McGill, **Dr. Miloud Chennoufi**, Canadian Forces College, and **Salhim Gheriani**, **Canadian Libyan Council**: “Life after Ghaddafi: Propects for Post-War Libya,” in collaboration with the Interuniversity Consortium of Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 8 – the Annual General Meeting was held in Toronto followed by a presentation by **Randolph Gherson**, Former Canadian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD.

NATO BRIEFING TOUR

September 24-October 2 – Our Chairman, The Hon. Bill Graham, was the Head of the Delegation on a NATO Briefing Tour. We visited NATO Headquarters in Brussels, where we also met with the Canadian Permanent Representative to NATO, H.E. Yves Brodeur, SHAPE in Mons, and the EU with a tour of the European Parliament in Brussels. Unfortunately, because of the operations in Libya, we were unable to visit Geilenkirchen to see the AWACS planes. Macedonia's representative to NATO, Ambassador Martin Trenevski, hosted a barbecue for the delegation at his

residence. In Paris, we had the pleasure of receiving a briefing and tour of the famous French Ecole de Guerre. The Canadian Permanent Representative to the OECD, H.E. Judith LaRocque, gave us a Canadian perspective on the OECD and then we moved to the OECD Headquarters for more briefings. We also met with the Canadian Ambassador to Paris, H.E. Marc Lortie, who gave us background information on the upcoming French presidential elections.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEB SITE www.atlantic-council.ca

The ACC primarily publishes and distributes electronically, enabling it to reach a wide audience at a cost within its means.

Four issues of the **ACC Newsletter** were posted in 2011, filled with reports and photos of ACC activities. Until the end of August, Jonathan Preece was the editor, and in September, James Bridger took over. Most of the interns contributed to the Newsletter over the course of the year. It is important to note that the Atlantic Treaty Association frequently excerpts significant portions of our Newsletter for their publications which, in turn, are picked up by national Atlantic Treaty Associations. This greatly broadens the outreach of the ACC.

20 issues of "In Focus" New Digest were also posted, as well as 50 short, informative articles on various security related topics, written by our interns, members, and others.

Jonathan Preece also edited a collection of articles by our interns entitled *Canada in the World: Youth Dialogue on Canadian Security and Defence*. The publication was posted on the website and there was also a limited print run.

Video clips of both the Spring and Fall Conferences were placed on *youtube*, and a DVD of the whole Spring conference is available to ACC members.

We rely heavily on our website, and from time to time, have it upgraded and new capabilities added to improve our ability to fulfill our mandate to inform Canadians about defence and security issues, and NATO and Canada's role in it. We have a Facebook page and have added Twitter to our social media capabilities in order to reach as many young people as possible.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

YATA Seminars and Conferences

At the ATA Assembly in Tirana, James Bridger was elected to the Executive of the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA).

In July, Kavita Bapat, James Bridger, and Melanie Clarke represented the ACC at the International Crisis Management simulation at Queen's University in Kingston. This is an annual event co-sponsored by Mannheim University, Queen's University, Kingston, the ATA and YATA. The program is run in alternate years in Canada and Germany. In 2011, when the event was held in Kingston, the ACC was able to sponsor three participants, but when it is held in Germany, the higher travel costs limit the number of participants.

High School Outreach

The ACC Team made presentations to high school classes in Barrie, Oakville and Goderich in 2011.

ADMINISTRATION

With the help of our interns, we were able to keep the office open and well staffed to provide services to our members, answer queries from the public, and organize various events throughout the year. Several of the interns have been particularly skilled in information technology, which has greatly improved the ACC's electronic outreach, and has allowed us to keep the website up to date. With the exception of the break between Christmas and New Year, the office was staffed every workday in 2011.

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

The ACC is a registered charity and will provide a receipt for tax purposes for any contribution over \$20.00.

Our website lists all 2011 sponsors and donors, and we are thankful for any amount. I would especially like to acknowledge the following who contributed \$1,000.00 or more:

Government of Canada, Security and Defence Forum, Department of National Defence

The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company
The Hon. Bill Graham
Scotiabank
The Jackman Foundation
H. Capt. Sonja Bata
NATO Public Diplomacy Division
Government of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
James C. Baillie
Equity Transfer and Trust Company
K. E. Hope Consultants/BioMedNova
The Hon. Hugh Segal

CONCLUSION

2011 was another very busy year for the ACC, and our activities continue in 2012. We hope to branch out to other regions in the country by collaborating with universities or like-minded organizations.

We are looking for all members and directors to assist us in promoting the ACC's mandate. There are several things we need from you. First and foremost, as you will hear from our Treasurer, is financial assistance. This does not necessarily mean donations directly from you, although those are always welcome and will be properly acknowledged with a charitable receipt and on our website. You can also help us by approaching potential sponsors for our activities. We will follow up from the office with all the details, but a personal approach from directors and members in the form of a phone call or a note, or setting up a meeting has made all the difference in the past in obtaining sponsorships or donations.

Secondly, help us to gain new members and participants in our activities. Invite guests to our events, pass on all invitations to others you think might be interested, suggest names to add to our e-mail lists, tell your friends about our activities and encourage them to access our website. Right now, we are still looking for a few more participants for the NATO tour. Many of you have been on that tour. Tell others about it and persuade them to join us.

Thirdly, if you have contacts in other centres in Canada that might be able to host an event, please let us know, and make the introductions for us. It is less difficult for us to find good speakers than it is to find free venues to hold roundtables.

Fourthly, you will shortly be hearing about a new initiative to improve our financial situation. I would ask all of you whether you are at this meeting or whether you are reading this via the internet, to support this initiative to build a Trust Fund to provide a more secure income base for the Council.

I feel that we are on the brink of becoming a truly national organization. We have made contacts. We are becoming more widely known and are receiving attention from national media. Now is the time for everybody to work beside us to make that breakthrough. Robert Baines and I would be happy to give you more information and follow up on your suggestions. Just call us at the office, 416.979.1875 or e-mail robert.baines@atlantic-council.ca or julie.lindhout@atlantic-council.ca.

Respectfully submitted on June 11, 2012



Julie A. Lindhout, President