



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2014**

2014 was an eventful year in which we made two moves and started the process of changing the name of the Atlantic Council of Canada to something which would more closely reflect our mandate. Both of these activities were time consuming and nerve wracking.

### **Moving**

Straddling the year-end, we moved from our small temporary space on the first floor of 165 University Avenue, to another temporary location in the 11<sup>th</sup> floor Boardroom at 48 Yonge Street, thanks to the generosity of Director Karim Kanji and his company Sutter Hill Properties. We unpacked only as much as would allow Robert Baines and I to work with our cell phones and laptops. The interns worked mostly at home and came in from time to time for staff meetings.

At the end of the third week of January, our new space at the Toronto Port Authority, 60 Harbour Street, was ready for us. We moved all the computers and peripherals with my car to protect them, as well as most of the boxes with files. Half the interns brought them down from the boardroom at 48 Yonge Street and loaded them into the car. The other half was at 60 Harbour Street to unload the car and take everything up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. As always, we had an extraordinary group of interns who were not afraid to tackle whatever needed to be done!

The larger items were moved by professional movers on the weekend, and the following Saturday, the movers brought the furniture from the storage lockers. Again we had the assistance of several interns. We finally had all our own furniture again and were able to set up computers on every desk. The internet was connected by the end of the first week, but the phones were not connected until mid-March. It was awkward and expensive to work just with cell phones.

One of the reasons for the delay was that we were investigating whether we should move to a VOIP system, to see if that might be a cost-effective way to expand our capabilities. In the end such a system proved to be more costly than the combination of phone and internet we had before without adding significant capability. Instead we contracted for a complete phone and internet system that would provide more lines and would after the initial installation expense, be considerably less expensive than what we paid before. We also increased our band width again to improve the speed and transmission capability of the internet.

### **Articles of Continuance and Name Change**

The new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act required us to file Articles of Continuance to maintain our incorporated and charitable status. At the Annual General Meeting on September 11, the membership approved plans to change the name to NATO Council of Canada / Conseil Canadien pour l'OTAN. However, Industry Canada did not approve the use of the name NATO, and required us to obtain the approval of NATO. NATO did not approve the use of the term "Council" in conjunction with NATO, but eventually approved the name "NATO Association of Canada / Association Canadienne pour l'OTAN (NAOC)" in 2015. At a Special Meeting on April 29, 2015, the membership approved the Articles of Continuance and a new General By-law to be submitted with the name change. We received Industry Canada approval in May, 2015.

### **Program Activities**

In spite of the preoccupation with administrative and logistic issues, the NAOC maintained a high level of program activities.



## **Conferences**

We had three very successful conferences. The Spring Conference on Arctic Security was held in cooperation with the RCMI on June 26, in their new facilities.

On October 9, we held a special conference in Toronto on Cyber Security at York University.

The Fall Conference on Ukraine was held at the Lester Pearson Building in Ottawa on November 18. A highlight of the conference was an address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. John Baird, at a reception he hosted on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor at the end of the day. We also had the opportunity listen to a keynote speech delivered by General John Vance, now the CDS, .

On March 21, we collaborated with the University of Calgary on a conference, "Unified Protector: NATO's intervention in Libya". At the end of May, we also co-operated with Women in International Security (WIIS) Canada on a conference on *Women in Defence* in Ottawa.

## **Roundtables**

We started the year with a Roundtable in Ottawa, January 29, on the 'Shale Revolution in the United States and the new geopolitics of Energy.' Toward the end of the year, we hosted another roundtable in Ottawa on ISIS on November 13.

On April 8, we hosted a Roundtable in Toronto with the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, the Hon. Igor Luksic on NATO enlargement and the Western Balkans.

Other Roundtables in Toronto were held on April 16 on Sport and International Relations; May 7, on Sri Lanka, May 15, on Afghanistan, and on August 21, on the then upcoming NATO Summit in Wales with Prof. Steve Saideman, Carleton University, and former Canadian Permanent Representative to NATO, David Wright.

On June 19, we also held a Roundtable in Montreal on the Baltic States: Securing their sovereignty, with senior diplomats from the Baltic countries, and held another roundtable on ISIS in Montreal on November 26.

We also held our first Roundtable at Western University in London on Energy Security, on November 7, and ended the year with a Roundtable in Calgary on "Operation Reassurance" in the first week of December.

## **Dinner and Lunch Events**

On April 24, we held a lunch with Edward Lucas, Senior Editor, *The Economist*, jointly sponsored the Royal Canadian Military Institute at the Albany Club, in Toronto.

Our Gala/Tribute Dinner was also held at the Albany Club on May 29, to honour our Immediate Past Chairman, the Hon. Bill Graham, and pay tribute to the "Heroes in our midst", Canada's Reserve Forces. Col Dwayne Hobbs responded on behalf of the Reserve Forces.



## **NATO Economy Forum**

On February 28, the NATO Economy Forum was held at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre, connecting Canadian business with projects and partnerships in South Eastern Europe. Business and government representatives from nine European countries attended, as well as Canadian government and agency representatives. An evening reception provided good networking opportunities.

## **Other Events**

On February 27, NAOC Chairman, the Hon. Hugh Segal, spoke on "Canada on the World Stage" at a Joint Networking Reception with Queen's University Alumni held at the Albany Club.

At a meeting of the NAOC Board of Directors, on March 11, "Conversation with the Chairman, the Hon Segal" moderated by President Julie Lindhout, followed the business meeting. The meeting was followed by a reception and an opportunity to see the new office space.

On April 4, NAOC Interns made presentations at a York University Model NATO meeting.

On June 16, NAOC members and directors enjoyed a round of golf with guest, MGen Dean Milner, Commander of the Canada's last contingent in Afghanistan at the prestigious Lionhead Golf Course and enjoyed a dinner courtesy of the Kaneff family. We are very thankful for their contribution.

Unfortunately, the NATO tour to Turkey and Montenegro had to be postponed, but about a dozen people did enjoy a visit to Canadian Forces Base Borden on October 30.

An unusual event was the screening of a documentary on Women in Security as part of WIIS 16 days of focus on Women in Security on November 24.

We ended the year with a wonderful social event, a Christmas party generously hosted by Director, Kathryn Langley Hope, at her home on December 16.

In addition to the above events put on by the ACC, ACC interns made presentations to school classes, and represented the ACC at several events and conferences.

The ACC also participated in the Aliante Project, and President Julie Lindhout took two Canadian teams to the semi-finals in Slovakia in July.

The President also attended the Atlantic Treaty Association Bureau meeting in February in Washington, and the Council Meeting in Brussels in May, as well as the Bureau, Council, and General Assembly meetings in Brussels in December.

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

The Meeting on "Afghanistan: What's next?" led to several meetings of an *ad hoc* Canada-Afghanistan Strategic Liaison Committee which met twice in August, in Toronto and Ottawa and is now gathering information on successful reconstruction projects with a view to promoting effective reconstruction activity.

This in turn is led to the revival of the PAXBUILD project first developed by Vice-President Ellis Kirkland. It is a broader research project on rebuilding large-scale infrastructure in fragile, failed, failing, disaster ravaged and



underdeveloped states or regions anywhere in the world. Activity has ramped up on the PAXBUILD project which is seeing some initial testing.

Another research project on how several NATO countries are addressing Post-Traumatic Stress effects is in the editing stage, and an issue of the Youth Dialogues was distributed earlier this year.

In 2014, we started the groundwork for a joint NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) project with the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, to research and publish a **NATO and Partners (NAP) Defence and Security Gender Best Practices Report with recommendations for a Women, Peace and Security Advisory Council**. Details of the project were developed and the formal application for SPS funding for a three-year project was submitted in June 2015. We are awaiting the results.

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA:**

The NAOC has posted an average of 25 short articles per week on various defence and security and international relations issues on its website.

We have also regularly contributed articles to *Atlantic Voices*, and other ATA publications, as well as occasionally to *Sitrep*, the official periodical of the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

Several NAOC interns have done significant interviews in print or video which have been posted on our website, which is currently being revised to introduce our new name and make it mobile friendly.

The interns continue to keep us active on social media. Most recent statistics are:

Media mentions – National Print: 1; National TV: 0; Local Print: 1; Defence Industry: 5;

**Facebook** Today: 1924 Likes

**Twitter** Today: 3743 Followers

**LinkedIn** Today: 608 Followers

**Youtube** Today: 264 Subscribers

**Instagram** Today: 46 Followers and 124 Media (this is a new initiative)

#### **UPDATE FOR 2015**

We have already had several Roundtables, including an excellent information session on Georgia with the Georgian Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration the Hon. David Bakradze, and expect to hold several more on our own or in cooperation with other organizations.

The Toronto Spring Conference on Women, Peace and Security, was very successful with NATO Special Representative, Mariët Schuurman presenting a keynote address.

We plan a major conference for Ottawa on November 10 and a Gala Dinner which we hope will be just as successful as the Commonwealth lunch held at the RCMI in July with Minister of Defence, the Hon Jason Kenny.

Our NATO Economy Forum held on February 27 was most successful. Presentations on Corporate Social Responsibility in the morning were well received. Following a request from one of the countries, we plan to hold a similar Forum in December to coincide with the Construct Canada conference in Toronto to give an opportunity for businesses in sectors other than mining and energy to participate.



Two Canadian teams participated in the Aliante Finals in Lithuania, and one team qualified for the Winners' trip to Georgia. We are in the process of raising money for that trip and look forward to your contribution of any amount.

From September 26 to October 3, I hope to lead a Delegation on a Tour to Turkey and Montenegro, to visit NATO Land Command in Turkey, and be briefed on NATO issues from the perspective of these countries, and meet with our ATA counterparts in those countries. It should be an excellent tour with an opportunity to get an inside look at places not many of us see on a regular basis. We need more participants, so I urge you to consider joining us, or passing the information on to friends and acquaintances.

The Annual General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association will take place in Brussels, November 18-20. It was originally scheduled to take place in Portugal, but Portugal will hold elections this fall.

The ATA Council approved the 2016 General Assembly to be hosted by Canada in Toronto. That will provide a fitting event in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

As always, we will respond to emerging issues by organizing appropriate additional roundtables or conferences, or writing articles and interview reports.

I will conclude by drawing your attention to our financial need. Vice-President, Doug Knight and two successive teams of interns have been working on the gargantuan task of marketing and fundraising. The work is gaining momentum and we are asking for your support in reaching out to potential donors and sponsors. Please send Doug your suggestions and make telephone or e-mail introductions to possible contributors which he and his team will then follow up. Also consider making donations yourself to our Trust Fund or operating funds. I would be happy to process credit card instalments for you or you can contribute regularly by PayPal.

We have a lot of work to do, and we need your help.