

2025

NATO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

www.natoassociation.ca

By Bogdana Torbina, Chief of Staff

ABOUT US

Founded in 1966, the NATO Association of Canada (NAOC) is a NATO-affiliated, non-governmental organization based in Toronto and active across Canada. Born from the tragedy of world war and division, NATO has worked to avert conflict and uphold the rules-based international order. The NAOC has involved the public in our mission and educated and engaged Canadians about international affairs and the crucial, long-standing role that NATO has played in bolstering national and global security and fostering peace. The organization facilitates its mandate by hosting conferences, seminars, roundtables, publications and other activities. NAOC is a registered charitable organization dependent for its operating funds on membership fees and business and personal donations and sponsorships. Click here for our 2024 yearbook.

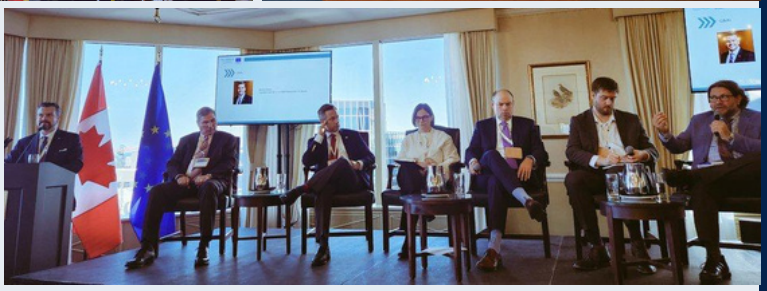


















NATO ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT



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President & CEO - Robert Baines, CD, MA



Honorary Chair Emerita - Kathryn E. Langley Hope, OStG



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Bogdana Torbina, MA



Executive Director
Lana Kharlip, MPA



Editor-In-Chief
Justin Dell, MA



Ottawa General Manager
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Vancouver General Manager
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REFLECTIONS ON 2025

Honorary Chair Emerita

Kathryn E. Langley-Hope



Welcome, Fellow NAOC/NATO Members, Executive, Directors, Advisors, Interns, Staff, Supporters and Volunteers. Here we are almost at the end of 2025...the Year of the Snake which continues to the Lunar New Year February 17, 2026. This lunar year, characteristically, has been one of tremendously difficult upheavals on so many different planes all around the world, including within NATO itself. So interesting, that it is happening around/through the Winter Olympics. Did you know that in the original Olympics no participating country could be at war or carrying out any executions throughout? Let us think as well of the original principles of the United Nations, which would not have survived without NATO and the Blue Berets: peacekeepers. It is very important for us to learn and teach from our history. The contributions made by our interns is unparallelled in the evolution of the NATO Association of Canada.

This next, The Year of the Fire Horse, is very special in the Lunar Calendar as it only occurs every 60 years and is known as the Year of Changes in positive ways. Canadians need to learn about and share their history with NATO and the World and the current events as they are happening, along with principles and practices of the NATO Canada Association.

Please visit our Website often for updates and events:
https://natoassociation.ca/

It is a privilege and honour to continue to serve with all of you.

Chair

Hon. David Collenette

The past five years have been difficult for global peace but most relevant for NATO is the ongoing Russian war on Ukraine. This tragedy has seen Canada and our allies become embroiled in the defence of Ukraine and its democracy. However, 2025 also saw a new American administration bring a different perspective to world affairs and to NATO. This has resulted in an even busier year for our Association in discharging our mandate to foster a better understanding of and educate Canadians about the importance of the importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Canada's peace, security and prosperity through the international rules-based order which is now under siege. We have taken our message to thousands of Canadians via in person events, webinars, scholarly documents and media appearances.

I want to thank President, Robert Baines; Executive Director Lana Kharlip; and our Chief of Staff, Bogdana Torbina, together with a very talented group of interns for all their outstanding efforts in discharging our mission. However, the Association's success can also be attributed to the members of our volunteer board of directors who have generously devoted their time, energy and financial contributions. We owe all of our team a debt of gratitude for their dedicated work





President

Robert Baines

Our organization is a community dedicated to engaging with our fellow citizens to ensure the lessons of the past are not forgotten. It is an enormously gratifying experience to look back on the events and activities of 2025 and to see the many conversations we kindled with so many different groups of people. Canada is stirring from a long slumber when defence and security were taken for granted - we worked towards that awakening especially hard this past year. We will continue to do so.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, both interns and members of the board, especially to Chair David Collenette and Honorary Chair Emerita Kathryn E. Langley-Hope. Thank you to Lana Kharlip, our interim Executive Director, and most of all to Bogdana Torbina, the NATO Association's Chief of Staff, who orchestrated so many of our activities in 2025 and who created this excellent yearbook as a record of our many achievements.

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WINTER VOLUNTEER INTERNS
JANUARY - APRIL 2025

Event Coordinators: Sierra Ausman, James Lautens, Muskaan Waraich, Arjun Yanglem

Engagement Coordinators: Anastasiya Dyadchenko, Marina Zaki

Membership Coordinator: Salik Qureshi

Social Media Coordinators: Ryana Alkassoum, Marie Gay

Security in Community Online Course: Dylan Alsop, Megan Keli, Brayden McQueen, Aly Sayani (Team Lead), Daniel Youssefi

Senior Editors: Gleb Adamovych, Dr. Robert Cutler, Joe De Sapio, Olena Kryzhanivska, Megan Keli, Cameron Telch

Program Editors: Sakura Armstrong, Myra Mansoor, Jeremy Ofwono, Salik Qureshi, Tisya Raina, Ritika Roy Chowdhury, Phoenix Seelochan, Narayan Srivastava, Tatiana Velickovic

Junior Research Fellows: Rameen Azmat, Esha Grewal, Misha Hajnoorolah-Khamseh, Alexander Martin, Abbey Stroud, Simon Waring

Ottawa Team: Assane Kaba, Tristan Price







SUMMER VOLUNTEER INTERNS
MAY - AUGUST 2025

Event Coordinators: Alexandre Delafosse, Valeria Espinosa, Kiyan Jiwa, Alishba Noman, Arjun Yanglem

Engagement Coordinators: Hassan Ahmed, Anastasiya Dyadchenko (Team Lead), Avaani Singh, Sean Thomas

Membership Coordinators: Saara Kharal, Salik Qureshi (Team Lead)

Social Media Coordinators: Chloe Duguay, Hermean Japra, Haley Tran

Digital Copy Editor: Manjinder Kaur

Security in Community Online Course: Dylan Alsop, Megan Keli, Brayden McQueen, Aly Sayani (Team Lead), Daniel Youssefi,

Program Editor Team Lead: Phoenix Seelochan

Senior Editors: Gleb Adamovych, Dr. Robert Cutler, Joe de Sapio, Olena Kryzhanivska, Megan Keli, Cameron Telch

Program Editors: Antonette De Losreyes, Ilya Goheen, Jeremy Ofwono, Tisya Raina, Arianna Seijts, Narayan Srivastava, Sakura Armstrong, Tanja Velickovic

Junior Research Fellows: Antar Figueroa Canales, Karla Garcia, James Lautens, Alexander Morrow, Patrick Samaha, Daria Synelnykova

Ottawa Team: Annabelle Farley, Yuktha Kowlessur, Tristan Price











FALL VOLUNTEER INTERNS
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

Engagement Coordinators: Roksolana Buyak, Tim Crincoli, Eli Rose, Avaani Singh (Team Lead), Sean Thomas

Event Coordinators: Amoly Agarwal, Alexandre Delafosse (Team Lead), Sarahi Giles, Alishba Noman, Soha Sarfraz, Melina Zarour

Membership Coordinators: Emily Liang, Salik Qureshi (Team Lead)

Social Media Coordinators: Vera Allue, Raisa Harusova

Digital Copy Editors: Nataliia Dikalchuk, Manjinder Kaur (Team Lead)

Fundraising Coordinators: David Carhart, Danylo Kotenko

Security in Community Online Course: Keya Patel, Aly Sayani (Team Lead), Daniel Youssefi, Brayden

Program Editor Team Lead: Daria Synelnykova

Senior Editors: Gleb Adamovych, Dr. Robert Cutler, Justin Myers, Alexander Morrow, Jeremy Ofwono, Olena Kryzhanivska, Phoenix Seelochan

Program Editors: Rose Najafi, Alexander Giordano, Hamza Noor, Matthew Sunil, Jessica Morris, Louna Demashki, Esha Grewal, Alexander Giordano, Alexander Morrow, Jessica Morris, Rose Najafi, Hamza Noor, Keya Patel, Matthew Sunil

Junior Research Fellows: Sofiia Andrushchak, Laiba Awan, Rameen Azmat, Madison Binder, Lou Cardot, Karissa Cruz, Antonette De Los Reyes, Dami Fakolujo, Esha Grewal, Hermean Japra, Dai Johnson, Elisabeta Lika, Daniel Lincoln, Mila Luhova, Angus MacKellar, Yaminah Meka, Milad Moghaddas, Raphael Racicot, Amila Sadic, Patrick Samaha, Joel Sawyer, Blair Shang, Sanam Singh, Angelina Smolynec, Narayan Srivastava, Abbey Stroud, Melani Vevecka, Rudy Yuan, Emma Zhang

Ottawa Team: Annabelle Farley, Yuktha Kowlessur, Tristan Price, Sean Thomas, Muskaan Waraich







EVENTS ATTENDED BY OUR DIRECTORS & INTERNS

Gala concert for the 100th anniversary of the Kingdom of Poland
November 17



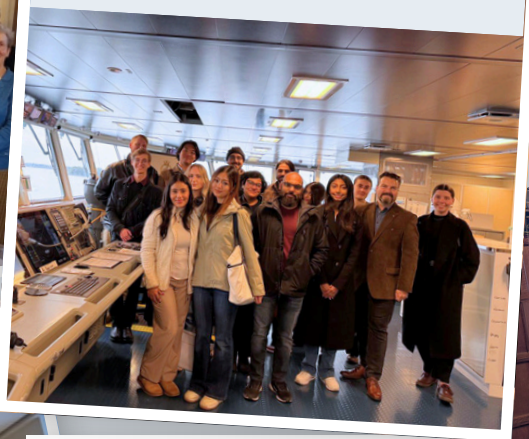
Meeting in Brussels with Polish MEP Arkadiusz Mularczyk to continue dialogue on Canada-Poland defence cooperation
April 9



Associated Reception with German Flag Officers
March 17



HMCS Margaret Brook Tour
October 18



Peter Nash Concert
March 23



University of Toronto Living the War VR Exhibit
February 28



Mark Carney's announcement of meeting 2% NATO spending target by March
June 9



NATO Public Forum in the Hague.
June 24-25



Ottawa Conference of Defence Associations
March 5-6



Polish National Independence Day Gala
November 20



Reception at Turkish Consul General's Residence
March 3



Meeting with Paweł Markiewicz and Artur Kacprzyk at the Polish Institute of International Affairs
April 4



Roundtable hosted by Latvian MEP Reinis Poznak & the Eastern Frontline Group on "The Russian Challenge and Building Coalitions of the Willing"
April 9



PUBLICATIONS



Disinformation and Public Health in the Post-Pandemic Era: What COVID-19 Taught Canada and NATO About Resilience

MILAD MOGHADDAS



The Green Helmets Initiative (GHI): Could the Canadian and other militaries in the world play a role in responding to increasing natural disasters driven by climate change?

DR. REMY BEAULIEU & JUDGE LOUISE OTIS



Special Report: The Case for Canada to Become an Allied Energy Superpower

HASSAN AHMED

In 2025, the NATO Association of Canada's Publications Team published 132 articles with the mandate of helping Canadians make sense of a fast-changing security environment, at home and abroad. NATO Association publishes articles on programs including NATO and Canada, Canadian Armed Forces; Centre for Disinformation Studies; Cyber Security and Emerging Threats; Energy Security; Indo-Pacific and NATO; Security, Trade, & Economy; Society-Culture, & Security; Women in Security; Environment, Climate-Change, & Security, alongside Special Publications. Across these streams, our writers connected headline geopolitical shocks, from Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and alliance cohesion, to Canadian domestic issues, including defence and procurement debates, Arctic sovereignty and deterrence, cyber threats to critical infrastructure, energy and supply-chain resilience, and the democratic challenge of disinformation.

Click images to read our 10 articles of 2025 on the top issues and topics that shaped the year's international security



NATO's Defence Spending Surge Is a Smart Move – But Can Europe and Canada Keep Up?

DARIA SYNELNYKOVA



Canada's WPS Credibility: Tested Within the Canadian Armed Forces

SANAM SINGH



Europe's Land-Based Intermediate-Range Strike Capability Gap

KRISTIAN KENNEDY



The North Atlantic Treaty Must Be Accepted In Whole, Not Just In Part

Justin M.J. Dell



History's Insights for the West's Russian Dilemma

SIMON WARING



Weaponized AI: The New Frontline in Global Disinformation Warfare

PATRICK SAMAHA



"Democracy Is Never A Guarantee:" Georgia's Young Protesters on the Frontlines Against Russian Disinformation

GABRIELLA CALDER



SECURITY IN COMMUNITY ONILNE COURSE

2025 Update

The Security in Community (SIC) Project was established in summer 2024 to develop a Massive Online Course that articulated and discussed the present and historical role of Canada in the international community.

Educator consultation, both at university-level, and at Grade 10-12 level in high schools, highlighted a general lack in understanding of Canada's role in the international community, the role of institutions significant to Canada such as NATO and the UN, the importance of civic freedoms and their link to security, and in understanding global conflict and its impact on Canadians at present, historically, and going forward.

To address this, the Security in Community project set out to develop a multimedia-format online course, adapted in a visual documentary-style format that would better hold the attention of its audiences, particularly younger Canadians. The general course was designed to target any Canadian adult interested in understanding Canada's historical, present, and future role in international governance, order, security and justice, with an abridged version of the course specially designed to be trialed and integrated within the Grade 10 Civics curriculum in Ontario, and later nationwide.

2025 has been a crucial and progress-filled year for the project, edging ever closer to our vision for a comprehensive set of educational resources, built to educate Canadians about the important role Canada has played in shaping our modern world, and the role it continues to play today.

In the early part of the year, the team had the wonderful opportunity to facilitate over 40 interviews with the project's subject-matter experts at locations all across Toronto and in Ottawa. We have then spent several months working through our extensive footage library to develop the course modules, and produce nearly 20 short videos for the NAOC's social media in the last 6 months. While a demo version of some course modules is now available (you can enroll and try the first few modules below), we look forward to finishing the course in its entirety in early 2026 and expanding our engagement with the various institutions the project has worked with as we launch the course for the public and get our materials into classrooms. We thank you all for your continued support, stay tuned for more!

Enroll in the course demo

Curriculum

Completing this course will provide an expert-informed foundation in Canadian defence, security and history as well as a practical understanding of basic IR theory terms such as sovereignty, anarchy, and diplomacy.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Canada and the Interwar Years
- Canada, the League of Nations and the Great Depression
- Canada and Appeasement (Including Spanish Civil War)
- Canada and NATO
- Canada and WW2
- The Foundations of the UN and Canada's role
- The Functions of the UN
- Canada and the Early Cold War
- Canada after WW2, and the preconditions for NATO
- Canada's role, and What is NATO?
- Canada and Peacekeeping
- The Origin of 'Human Rights'
- The foundation of the UN Charter
- The Holocaust
- The Foundation of UDHR

40+ experts interviewed include but are not limited to:

- Robert Baines, President & CEO of the NATO Association of Canada
- Justin Dell, Lt-Gen (Ret'd)
- Andrew Leslie, Former Commander of the Canadian Armed Forces, Deputy Commander, ISAF, Member of Parliament, 2015 to 2019
- Kate Todd, Senior Fellow, North American and Arctic Defence Security Network
- Hon. David Collenette, Former Canadian Minister of Defence, Minister of Transport, and Minister for Multiculturalism, Chair of the NATO Association of Canada
- LCdr (Ret'd) Albert Wong, Citizenship Judge, Retired Canadian Military Officer, Community Advocate
- Dr. Andrew Burtch, Canadian War Museum's post-1945 Historian

















IN-PERSON EVENTS






January 29 - Toronto

Presentation by Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee "Canada in Uncertain Waters"

Our event with Admiral Topshee, the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, "Canada in Uncertain Waters," was held at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. It featured a conversation and presentation with Admiral Topshee, discussing the future and challenges of the Canadian Navy. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and a networking session at the Canadian Forces College Mess Hall.

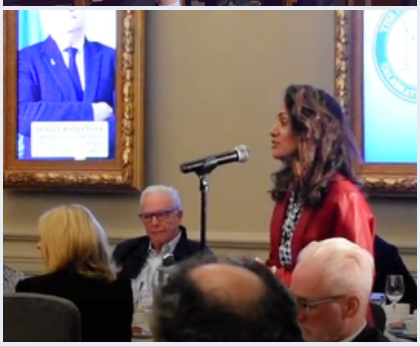
February 5 - Toronto

Pekka Kallioniemi & The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation

The NATO Association hosted an event at the University Club in Toronto with Pekka Kallioniemi, a Finnish disinformation expert, on the guide to Russian disinformation. Kallioniemi explored the pervasive threat of Russian disinformation and his experiences of tracking and exposing disinformation messages.





February 13 - Toronto

Panel conversation with Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada on NATO membership for Ukraine

Hosted at Toronto's National Club, this exclusive member event with Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, H.E. Yuliya Kovaliv, examined Ukraine's prospects for NATO membership and what an accession pathway could look like. The discussion also addressed how to respond to Russian narratives and security claims about NATO, and how the war is reshaping defence-industry dynamics, including the role business can play in Ukraine's long-term recovery.

IN-PERSON EVENTS







February 22 - Toronto

Lunar New Year Celebration

The Lunar New Year celebration hosted at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto was a night of reflection on resilience and diversity, honoring those who served despite adversity and helped shape Canada's history.

March 26 - Vancouver

NATO Association of Canada Vancouver Launch

The opening of the Vancouver Branch of the NATO Association was held at the Polish Consulate in Vancouver bringing together leaders in civil society, business and distinguished guests from consulates for insightful discussions on NATO, international affairs, security, and diplomacy. The NATO Association also honoured the SFU NATO Field School and Simulation Program and the work of Alexander Moens for his outstanding dedication to the values, mission, and strength of NATO.













March 29 - Toronto

Alliance in Expression: The Art of NATO

The NATO Association hosted an art exhibit with a keynote by Hon. John McKay at the Toronto City Hall, bringing together art from 15+ member state embassies to showcase the alliance's cultural depth and the values that unite us, a powerful reminder that NATO isn't just about security, but also about shared history, creativity, and the future we build together.

IN-PERSON EVENTS











April 4 - Toronto

76 Years of NATO: Strength in Unity & Cooperation

The NATO Association hosted NATO's 76th Anniversary Reception at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto with special remarks presented by the Ambassador of Latvia, H.E. Kaspars Ozoliņš, and the Hon. Art Eggleton.

April 17 - Toronto

Who Will Defend Europe?

The NATO Association hosted an evening event at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto with expert and author Keir Giles on NATO's evolving role, intricacies of West-Russia relations, and reflections on the future of international security.







May 20 - Oakville

Canada–Indo Pacific Security Roundtable

The Business Council of Canada, The Park Group and the NATO Association hosted an off-the-record discussion in Oakville on Canada's evolving role in the Indo-Pacific. Participants examined major strategic themes spanning energy, innovation, industry, investment, and the future of regional diplomatic and security cooperation, with the Hon. Jean Charest presiding and a keynote from NRCan's Frank Des Rosiers.

Conference - May 31 - Toronto

Safeguarding Ukraine's Future:

Security Guarantees & Demining for Ukraine's Recovery & Reconstruction

The NATO Association hosted a one-day conference at the Downtown Toronto Reference Library in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, Consulate of Ukraine in Toronto, Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Mriya Aid, and Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, supported by a donation from the Honorary Chair Emerita of the NATO Association of Canada, Kathryn E. Langley Hope. The conference focused on Ukraine's security needs and recovery, bringing together leaders from government, industry, civil society, and academia. The Keynote address by Diane Francis and panels of the day explored pathways to lasting security, practical support for reconstruction, and the importance of demining for safe civilian life. The event highlighted Canada's ongoing engagement and the shared commitment to Ukraine's future.

Conference Report

Conference Recordings















IN-PERSON EVENTS







June 18 - Toronto

A NATO Success Story: Kosovo's Liberation and Post-Conflict Statebuilding

The NATO Association and the Consulate General of Kosovo in Toronto hosted an event at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto to mark the 26th anniversary of Kosovo's Liberation. Guest speakers from Kosovo, Dr. Atdhe Hetemi & Dr. Qerim Qeremi, reflected on NATO's intervention, Kosovo's post-conflict statebuilding, and the importance of accountability and documentation in rebuilding after war. The evening combined expert discussion with cultural and artistic elements to honour lived experiences and highlight lessons for today's conflicts.

Report

July 11 - Toronto

Reflections on Canada's Support for Ukraine

The NATO Association hosted a discussion on Canada's support for Ukraine at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, featuring the Honourable Bill Blair and Lieutenant-Colonel Melanie Lake. The speakers reflected on Canada's military assistance and training efforts, the need to strengthen defence investment at home, and the value of learning from Ukraine's wartime innovation. The event underscored Canada's commitment to Ukraine while highlighting lessons for Canada's own readiness and resilience.

Report









July 23 - Ottawa

Kabul-NATO Dialogue: Envisioning a Collaborative Future

Co-organized by the NATO Association and the Afghanistan Young Leaders Organization, the event brought together diplomats, parliamentarians, and civil society in Ottawa to discuss Afghanistan's future and pathways for international cooperation. Conversations focused on democratic transition challenges, the recognition of gender apartheid, and the role of political movements in supporting stability and development. The NATO Association Chair, Hon. David Collenette and MP Ali Ehsassi, delivered opening remarks.

IN-PERSON EVENTS







September 18 - Toronto

Strength in Unity: The Discussion on Canada-Latvia Relationship with Reinis Pozņaks

The NATO Association hosted a discussion at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto with Latvian Member of the European Parliament Reinis Pozņaks on the Canada–Latvia relationship and the future of European security. The conversation highlighted collective defence, resilience, and the importance of civic and technological contributions, alongside military efforts, in strengthening NATO's security.

Report

September 23 - Toronto

Diplomatic Anchors: The Importance of International Institutions in the Modern Day

The NATO Association and the National Club hosted a panel on why international institutions remain essential in today's global security environment, moderated by Robert Baines and featuring Ben Rowswell, Hon. Bryon Wilfert, and Marjan Schippers. Speakers reflected on real-world examples of international cooperation, both effective and flawed, and the need for stronger consensus, reform, and coalition-building to meet modern challenges.

Report













October 1 - Ottawa

EU-Canada: Advancing Defence Industrial Cooperation High-level Event

The EU Delegation to Canada and the NATO Association convened a high-level dialogue on advancing EU–Canada defence industrial cooperation, moderated by Robert Baines and opened by H.E. Geneviève Tuts, Natasha Kim, Sara Wilshaw, and Kendal Hembroff. The policy briefing by Dr. Raluca Csernatoni and Dr. J. Craig Stone, along with a panel featuring Nicolas Todd, David Hutchison, Philippe Lagassé, Alex Salt, and Dr. Csernatoni, highlighted opportunities to align procurement, innovation, and supply chains across the transatlantic space.

Report

IN-PERSON EVENTS







November 7 - Ottawa

Policy Roundtable: "NATO at a Crossroads: Present Challenges and Future Trajectories"

Carleton University's Eastern Europe and Transatlantic Network, in partnership with the NATO Association, hosted a hybrid event in Ottawa bringing together academics and policymakers to examine NATO's present challenges and future trajectories. Speakers included Dr. Benjamin Zyla, Dr. Christian Leuprecht, Dr. David Sichinava, Dr. Ann Fitz-Gerald, Dr. Luca Ratti, Dr. Mihai Sebe, Dr. Antonia Colibasanu, Kerry Lynn Nankivell, H.E. Witold Dzielski, Eric Laporte, and Brigadier General Scott McKenzie. The discussions focused on shifting global security dynamics, including the war in Ukraine, great-power competition, arms control pressures, and debates over burden-sharing and European strategic autonomy.

November 11

Country-Wide Remembrance-Day Commemoration

The NATO Association of Canada, NATO Youth, and NATO-Youth University Clubs attended Remembrance Day memorial services across the country to reflect & honour those who served, those who sacrificed & those who continue to protect our freedom. Over 50 members of our community attended ceremonies across Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia.









Lest We Forget

NATO Association of Canada

IN-PERSON EVENTS







November 25 - Toronto

Civic Readiness in an Uncertain Era: Is it time for a Canadian Civil Defence Corps?

The NATO Association and the Canadian International Council Toronto Branch hosted a panel at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto on whether Canada should develop a modern civil defence corps, featuring Peter MacLeod, Juliana Haras, and Dr. Andrew Burtch, moderated by Dr. Nirupama Agrawal. The discussion examined how Canada can strengthen civic preparedness amid geopolitical tension, foreign interference, and climate-related emergencies, drawing lessons from other countries' resilience models.

Report

November 28 - Ottawa

Unmanned Horizons: The Future of Aerial, Land, and Naval Drones

The NATO Association hosted a panel at the Cartier Square Drill Hall in Ottawa on how aerial, land, and naval drones are rapidly transforming modern defence and security. Speakers included MGen Smyth, Col Labbe, LCol Lemay, Paula Folkes, Col Pavese, and Andrew Carryer moderated by Dr. Alexander Salt. The panel explored what Canada can learn from recent conflicts, how to integrate unmanned systems responsibly, and how to balance interoperability with speed and risk tolerance. MC of the event and Chief of Staff of the NATO Association, Bogdana Torbina, presented introductory remarks followed by a keynote speech by our Chair, Hon. David Collenette. The afternoon concluded with closing remarks by Honorary Chair Emerita, Kathryn E. Langley Hope.

Report













November 30 - Toronto

Northern Lights Concert

The NATO Association of Canada partnered with the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada for our annual Music of NATO concert. The concert combined music and storytelling, paying tribute to our nation's rich musical heritage and highlighting Canada's role as a member of NATO in maintaining our North, Strong, and Free.

WELCOMING DELEGATIONS



May 23 - Toronto

Visit by Hon. Park Jin, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

The NATO Association hosted a roundtable discussion on the G7 Summit and prospects for ROK–Canada cooperation. We were honoured to welcome H.E. Dr. Park Jin, former Foreign Minister of South Korea. With his incredible perspective and rich experience, Dr. Park offered inspiring insights on diplomacy, peacebuilding, and global partnerships. Special thanks to Mr. Kim and the Consulate General of Korea in Toronto for their support in making this event possible.

June 6 - Toronto

Visit by the Parliamentary Internship Program Cohort

The NATO Association welcomed the Parliamentary Internship Cohort at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto for a lecture on NATO and the NATO Association of Canada. Participants received a guided tour and attended an informative session on the RCMI's history, mission, and contributions to Canadian defence and security dialogue. The event aimed to provide young leaders with insight into Canada's military heritage and current strategic affairs.





















September 25 - Toronto

Visit by Ambassador Margriet Vonno

The NATO Association had the honour of hosting Her Excellency Margriet Vonno, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada since 2024, at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. H.E. shared valuable insights into her experience in building bridges between nations, ending with a discussion on the future of sustainable energy.

WELCOMING DELEGATIONS





November 18 - Toronto

Visit by the Halifax International Security Forum's Peace with Women Fellowship

The NATO Association co-organized a roundtable in Toronto with the 2025 Peace with Women Fellowship, bringing together senior female military leaders to discuss democratic resilience amid growing autocratic threats. The conversation examined how authoritarian tactics, especially in the information and technology space, are challenging NATO allies, and why unity, shared standards, and trusted public communication matter. Participants underscored that long-term resilience depends on education, media literacy, and sustained partnerships beyond NATO's immediate region.

Report

November 28 - Toronto

Visit by the German Command and Staff College Delegation Seminar

The NATO Association welcomed a visiting delegation of the German Command and Staff College Transatlantic Seminar from the Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr alongside dignitaries from the Embassy of Germany to Canada at the historic Royal Canadian Military Institute. Speakers of the session included Prof. Jack Cunningham, Coordinator at the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History; Indira Naidoo-Harris, Director at the NATO Association of Canada and former Minister of Education; and LCol (Ret'd) Ted Opitz, Director at the NATO Association of Canada and former Member of Parliament.

The conversations were thoughtful and engaging, and served as a timely reminder of why transatlantic cooperation continues to matter, particularly as we navigate an increasingly complex global landscape. The exchange highlighted the value of bringing together military, academic, and policy perspectives to reflect openly on shared challenges and priorities.











YOUTH & NETWORKING EVENTS

February 11 - Toronto

Signing of an MOU between the NATO Association of Canada and Afghan Young Leaders Organization

The NATO Association of and Afghan Young Leaders Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto.





February 22 - Ottawa

Networking Event with Carleton University Model NATO

Held at the Marriott in Ottawa as a side-event to the annual MNATO Conference, this event provided students with a unique opportunity to connect with diplomats, public servants, and professionals in international affairs, security, and diplomacy. Esteemed guests included VP of the NATO Association Mike Ward, Christos Charopoulos from the Greek Embassy, Ilgin Su Çatalhava from the Embassy of Turkey, and Andrii Buhwch from the Embassy of Ukraine .

February 25 - Montreal

Reception for Montreal Defence and Security Partners

Bringing together military representatives, diplomats, consular officials, business leaders, academics, and cultural community members for an evening of meaningful engagement. Held at the prestigious University Club of Montreal, the event fostered dynamic discussions on international security, defence cooperation, and NATO's role in global affairs.



YOUTH & NETWORKING EVENTS

March 11 - Toronto

NATO Association Intern Alumni Reception

provided a valuable opportunity for former interns to reconnect, expand their professional networks, and engage in meaningful conversations. Held at Greta Bar, the event fostered a dynamic and welcoming atmosphere, allowing attendees to reflect on their experiences, share insights, and strengthen their connections within the alumni community. The participants also played arcade games and grabbed drinks!





April 14 - Ottawa

Cybersecurity Careers & Further Education Panel

Women in International Security, Mcill Women in Computer Science, and the NATO Association of Canada held a career panel at McGill University for students to connect with industry leaders, gain valuable insights into both careers and further education, and participate in a speed networking session.



November 26 - Ottawa

Career Pubinar: NATO, the Arctic, and the Future

NAADSN's Emerging Leaders' Node and the NATO Association of Canada hosted an early-career "pubinar" with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute on NATO, the Arctic, and the Future, opening with remarks from Jazlyn Melynchuk. The event brought together emerging professionals from academia and government to discuss North American–North Atlantic security linkages and rising challenges like great-power competition, climate change, and advanced military technologies.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



January 20 - Toronto

Massey College Conference “What's Next: Canadian - American Relations in the Age of Trump”

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, participated in a panel on National Security & Foreign Policy Panel at the Massey College Conference in Toronto.

January 24 - Toronto

Young Politicians Canada Panel “Bridging the Generational Gap Between Generational Leadership”

Honorary Chair Emerita of the NATO Association, Kathryn E. Langley Hope, spoke at the panel focused on perspectives and advice for youth and leadership together with Brett Starke, Tim Hudak, and Peter Biro in Toronto.







March 17 - Zoom

NATO 101 Presentation for Students from Branford University, Manitoba

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, gave a virtual presentation on NATO 101 for students from Branford University in Manitoba.

March 17 - Toronto

NATO 101 Presentation for UofT UNICEF Students

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, gave a virtual presentation on NATO 101 for University of Toronto UNICEF Club Students.







March 27-28 - Prince George

President Robert Baines Visit to Prince George

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, travelled to Prince George for two days of events organized by the Canadian International Council - Prince George Branch to engage with the local community, including Winston’s Breakfast Current Affairs Club, to speak on NATO and Canadian defence in today’s challenging geopolitical climate.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS





April 5 - Toronto

Hold Fast: the Urgent Value of NATO to Canada and Latvia

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, was invited by the Latvian National Federation in Canada to give a presentation titled “Hold Fast: the Urgent Value of NATO to Canada and Latvia” in light of global uncertainty for Canada, Latvia, and our allies.

May 22 - Ottawa

NATO Ambassadors Panel

The NATO Association partnered on a panel with Dr. Frédéric Mérand, Dr. Stéfanie Von Hlatky, and Dr. Aaron Ettinger, examining how the Netherlands and Poland are shaping transatlantic cooperation through NATO, the EU, and sustained support for Ukraine. Featuring remarks from Ambassadors Margriet Vonno and Witold Dzielski.







June 18 - Toronto

Massey College Roundtable on Policy Solutions to Fight Disinformation

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, joined Massey’s Public Policy Program Disinformation Roundtable, facilitated by Thomas Axworthy, bringing together experts and practitioners from across sectors to discuss how disinformation affects Canada’s democracy.

June 26 - Calgary

Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Calgary AGM

Senior Editor of the NATO Association, Olena Kryzhanivksa, was invited to give a presentation about the NATO Association of Canada and Ukraine and Canada in NATO.







September 17- Toronto

University of Toronto NATO-Youth Club Opening

President & CEO of the NATO Association, Robert Baines, attended the University of Toronto NATO-Youth Club Opening.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS





September 29 - Toronto

Couchaching Conference

NATO Association Chair, Hon. David Collenette, spoke on the panel about Canada's role in a post-neoliberal world. Chief of Staff, Bogdana Torbina, spoke on the panel about transatlantic approaches to strengthening democracy and civic renewal.

October 2 - Toronto

University of Toronto Policython

President & CEO, Robert Baines, participated as a speaker for the University of Toronto Policython - focusing on the future of Canadian defence spending and what it means for international trade and the NATO Alliance.







October 7 - Vancouver Island

NATO at a Crossroads: Canada's Role in Global Security

President & CEO Robert Baines spoke at an event hosted by the Canadian International Council Vancouver together with Paul Meyer, former Canadian Ambassador and international security expert, on NATO's future and Canada's role in the Alliance. The event was attended by Consul General Ricardo Arredondo of Argentina, Consul General Raphael Dang of France, and Acting Consul General Padley Bin Ahmed.

October 8 - Victoria

Canadian International Council - Victoria

President & CEO, Robert Baines, attended the Canadian International Council Victoria dinner reception in Victoria.









October 8 - Vancouver Island

Canadian International Council - Vancouver Island

President & CEO, Robert Baines, spoke at an event hosted by the Canadian International Council Vancouver Island on the challenges Canada faces in a world of failing international law and treaties.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

October 9 - Victoria

Canadian International Council - Victoria Politics-in-the-pub



President & CEO, Robert Baines, attended the CIC Politics-in-the pub with Canadian International Council Victoria.



October 9 - Vancouver Island

Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Island

President and CEO Robert Baines presented at the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island for the Canadian International Council Vancouver and the Naval Association of Canada VI's event.

October 16 - Toronto

Canada-Turkiye Defence and Aerospace Roundtable

President & CEO, Robert Baines, participated in a roundtable co-hosted by CTBC with Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Turkiye Canada Business Council, NATO Association of Canada, Trade Commissioner Service - GAC, and MNP. Turkish Ambassador to Canada Can Dizdar, Consul General Can Yoldash and Turkish companies were in attendance. MP Sima Acan from Oakville represented Canadian Federal Government.









November 13-16 - Montreal

Secondary School UN Symosium 2025

NATO Association President & CEO, Robert Baines, & VP, Garrick Ngai, presented at the Secondary School UN Symposium 2025 in Montreal.

November 26 - Toronto

Women in Security Panel

NATO Association VP, Lana Kharlip, spoke on a panel hosted by Women in International Security University of Toronto Chapter together with Alessandra Castino and Anna Lysenko.





IN THE MEDIA















Watch

Putin 'is the one making NATO stronger' through conflict with Ukraine: Baines

President and CEO of the NATO Association of Canada Robert Baines provides his insight on the drone incursion into Poland and how NATO may respond





CBC's Sarah Galashan speaks with David Collenette on Canada to meet its NATO defence targ









Opinion | Collenette: Here is what Mark Carney needs to do to make military expansion work

Updated June 11, 2025 at 11:37 a.m.

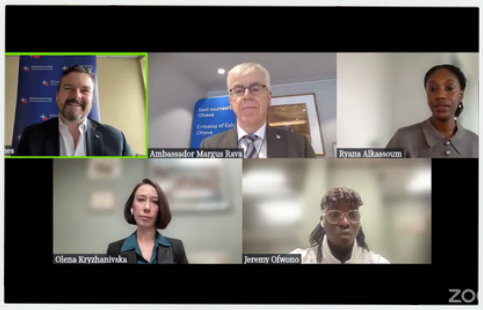
June 11, 2025 | 2 min read



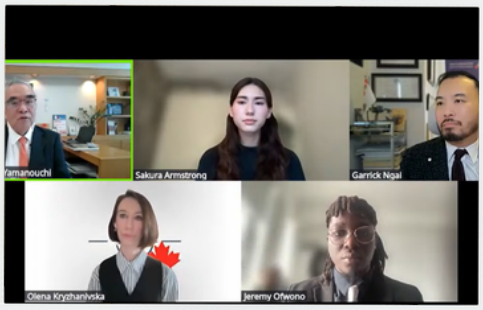
DIPLOMATIC SPEAKER SERIES

The NATO Association of Canada's Diplomatic Speaker Series convenes ambassadors and senior diplomatic representatives for virtual conversations and live audience Q&A, giving Canadians direct access to diplomatic perspectives on Euro-Atlantic security and Canada's role in the Alliance. The series advances NAOC's mission to promote peace, prosperity, and security by strengthening public knowledge and understanding of NATO and Canada's place on the world stage. Each conversation translates complex alliance debates into accessible takeaways, highlighting priorities, risks, and opportunities for cooperation. By bringing together diplomatic voices, students, professionals, and the broader public in one forum, the Diplomatic Speaker Series builds community, deepens engagement with international security issues, and helps cultivate the next generation of security-literate leaders. View our 2025 YouTube Playlist or click on the individual interviews below to view the interview recordings.

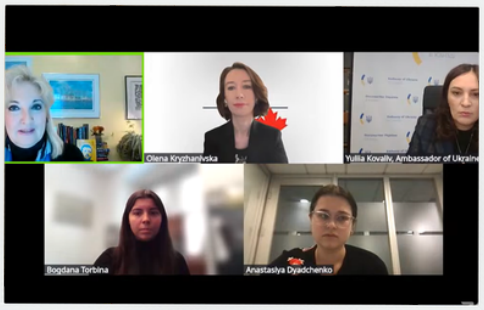
2025 Playlist



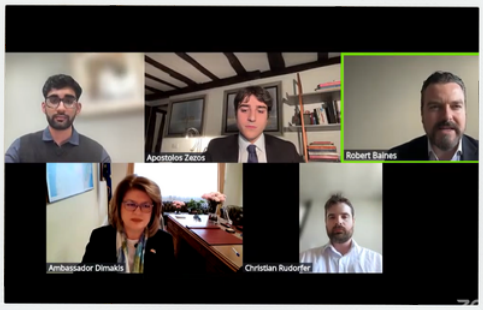
January 10 - Ambassador of Estonia to Canada
H.E. Margus Rava



January 22 - Ambassador of Japan to Canada
H.E. Kanji Yamanouchi



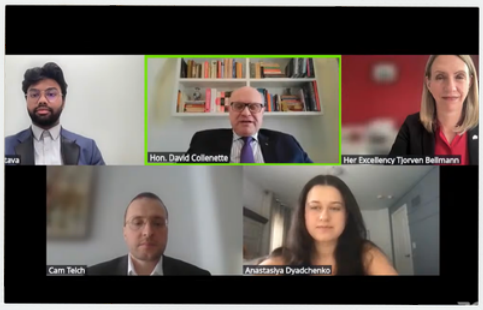
January 31 - Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada
H.E. Yuliya Kovaliv



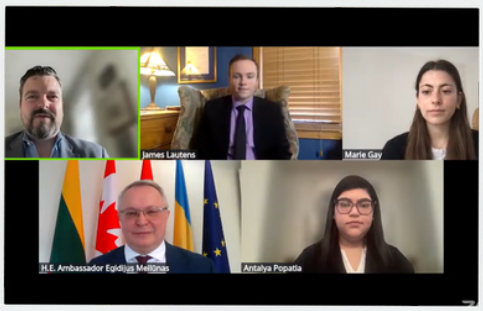
February 7 - Ambassador of Greece to Canada
H.E. Ekaterina Dimakis



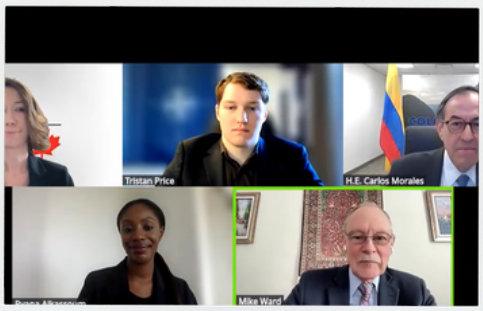
February 12 - Ambassador of Turkiye to Canada
H.E. Can Dizdar



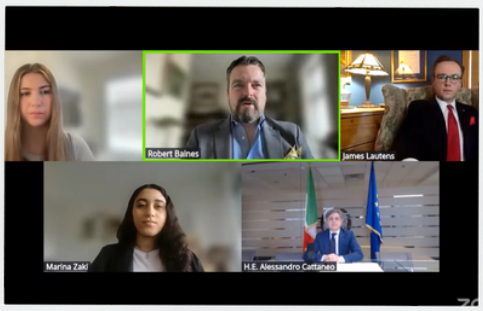
February 25 - Ambassador of Germany to Canada
H.E. Tjorven Bellmann



March 12 - Ambassador of Lithuania to Canada
H.E. Egidijus Meilūnas

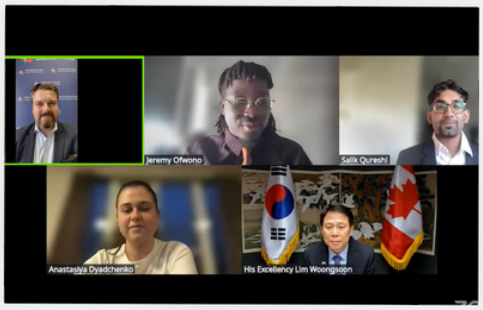


March 27 - Ambassador of Colombia to Canada
H.E. Carlos Morales



April 3 - Ambassador of Italy to Canada
H.E. Alessandro Cattaneo

DIPLOMATIC SPEAKER SERIES



May 6 - Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Canada
H.E. Lim Woongsoon



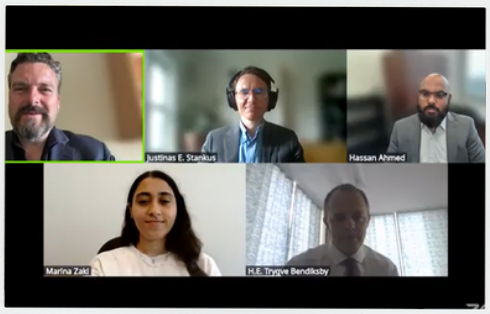
May 15 - Ambassador of Iceland to Canada
H.E. Hlynur Guðjónsson



July 4 - UK High Comissioner to Canada
H.E. Rob Tinline



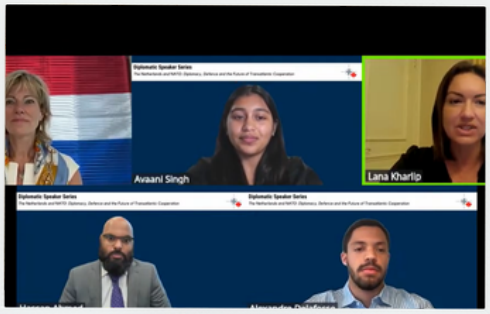
July 8 - Ambassador of Albania to Canada
H.E. Artemis Malo



July 9 - Chargé d'Affaires of Norway to Canada
Mr. Trygve Bendiksby



July 18 - Ambassador of Denmark to Canada
H.E. Nikolaj Harris



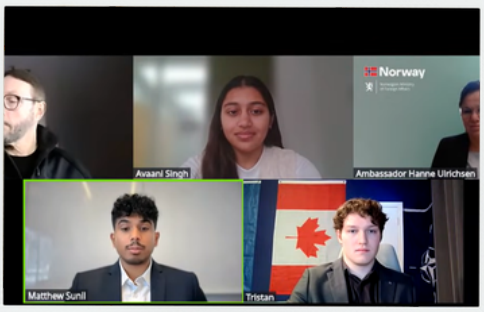
August 7 - Ambassador of Netherlands to Canada
H.E. Margriet Vonno



November 14 - Ambassador of Romania to Canada
H.E. Bogdan Mănoiu



November 21 - Ambassador of Bulgaria to Canada
H.E. Plamen Georgiev



December 5 - Chargé d'Affaires of Norwayf
Ms. Hanne Ulrichsen



December 8 - Ambassador of Czech Republic to Canada
H.E. Martin Tlapa

2025 Playlist

OTHER VIRTUAL EVENTS & PODCASTS



January 29

Podcast interview with Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee

In this episode, we sit down with Vice Admiral Angus Topshee, the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, for an in-depth discussion on the evolving challenges facing Canada's maritime forces. We explore Trump's ambitions to seize the Panama Canal and Greenland, the increasing military presence of Russia and China in the Arctic, and the impact of climate change on naval strategy. Vice Admiral Topshee shares insights on how Canada is adapting to these geopolitical shifts and what the future holds for the Royal Canadian Navy in an era of global uncertainty.

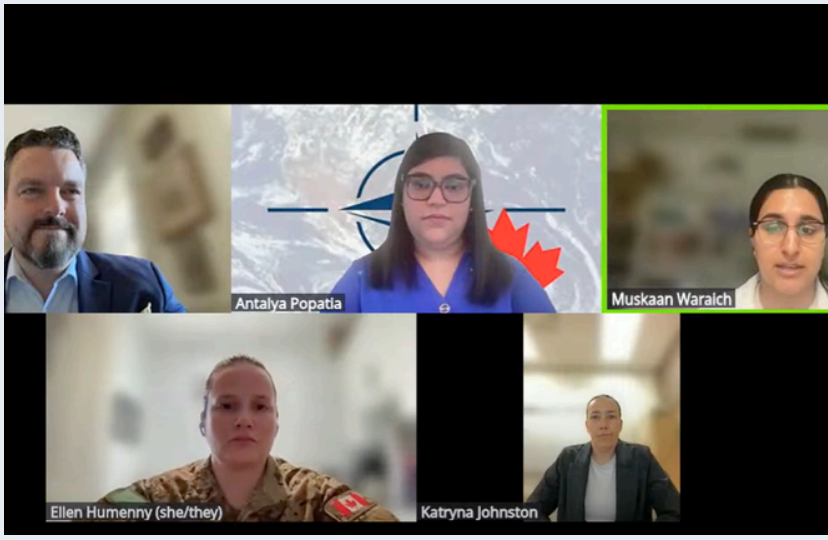
Podcast

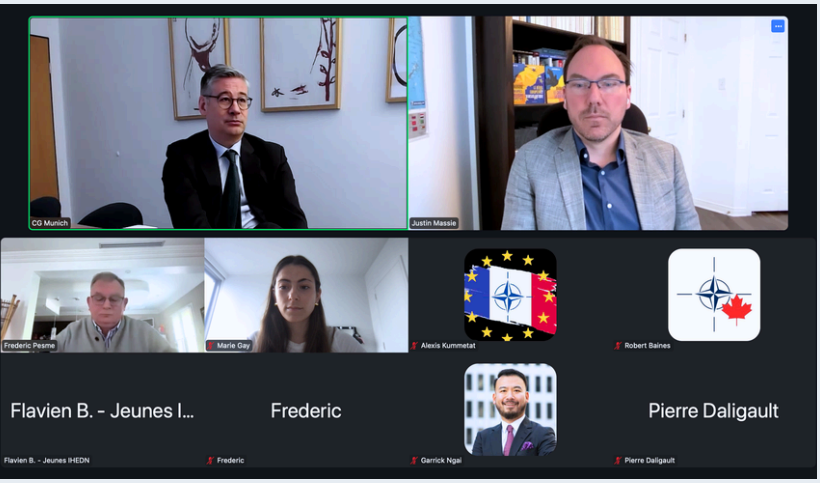
March 10

Leading with Strength: Inspiring Stories from Women in International Security

The virtual panel celebrated International Women's Day by highlighting inspiring stories from women in international security and reflecting on why women's leadership matters for peace and security. Panelists Katryna Johnson, Executive Member for WIIS, and Ellen Humenny, Senior HR Manager at 4th Canadian Division HQ, discussed the Women, Peace and Security agenda and how gender perspectives and partnerships can strengthen policy and operational outcomes, especially in conflict settings.

Recording





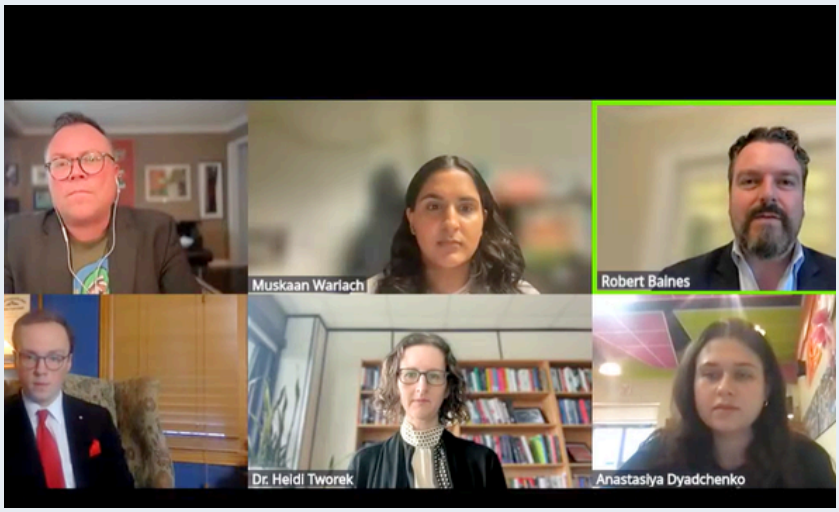
March 17

Autonomie stratégique: regards croisés France-Canada

The virtual panel was co-organized with the Association Française pour la Communauté du Traité Euro-Atlantique. The subject of the conference was autonomic strategy, viewed from the perspectives of Canada and France with guest speakers Alexane A. Vullic, Frederic Pesme, and Justin Mie.

Recording

OTHER VIRTUAL EVENTS & PODCASTS



April 2

Disinformation Panel

The panel brought together experts Marcus Kolga, a renowned documentary filmmaker and disinformation analyst, and Dr. Heidi Tworek, a Canada Research Chair specializing in communication technologies and democratic institutions. The panel dissected the multifaceted challenges of foreign influence operations, exploring how emerging media technologies impact democratic processes and societal understanding.

Recording

December 10

French-Canadian dialogue on defence, diplomacy, and the future of transatlantic unity

In partnership with the French Association for the Euro-Atlantic Community, the NATO Association of Canada brought together 3 experts for a French-Canadian virtual dialogue on defense, diplomacy and the future of transatlantic unity in an increasingly fragmented world. The panel covered topics of hybrid threats, strategic resilience, industrial and technological cohesion, NATO stance, multilateral leadership and communication in a pressured space. Panelists included Justin Massie, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at UQAM, Co-Director of the Réseau d'analyse stratégique, and former Fulbright Chair at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Patrick Chevalereau, Vice-Admiral (2nd Section), strategic consultant on transatlantic relations and European defence, Distinguished Fellow at RUSI and Vice-President of the Institut Open Diplomacy, and Pauline Baudu, Director of the Climate Security Program at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute



Recording

INTERN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

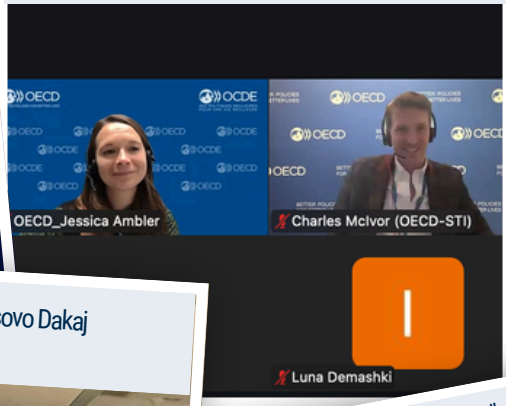
Samir Kassam, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy at Natural Resources Ca
August 19



David (Lokulutu) Bongwele, Senior Political Affairs Officer at the UN
September 5



Jessica Ambler & Charles McIvor,
Policy Analysts & Economists at the OECD - OCDE in Science, Technology & Innovation Policy.
November 4



Olena Kryzhanivska, Post-Doctoral Fellow at CGAI & Senior Editor at the NATO Association of Canada
November 7



Consul General of Kosovo Dakaj
March 14



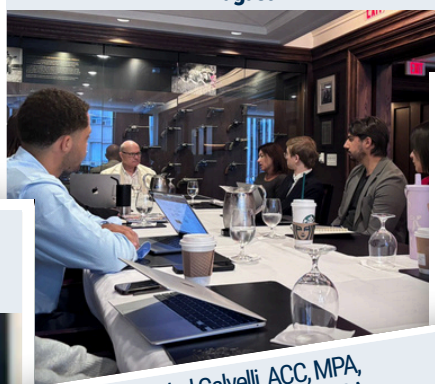
Daniel Safayeni, President and CEO of Federally Regulated Employers – Transportation and Communications
November 18



Skaidra Puodžiūnas, Director of Government Affairs for Ontario at the Council of Canadian Innovators
July 29



Honourable David Collenette,
Chair of the NATO Association
August 29



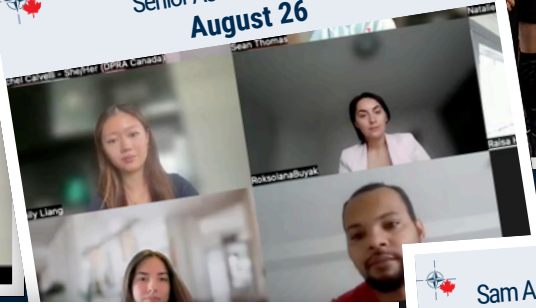
Judge Albert Wong. Director of the NATO Association
November 7



Ambassador Heidu Hulan, Canada's Permanent Representative to NATO
July 25



Rachel Calvelli, ACC, MPA,
Senior Associate at DPRA
August 26



Hélène Emorine Manager, Global Government Affairs and Public Policy, International - Sun Life
August 29



Ayo Daniel Makanjuola, Director of Finance at NATO LA
July 22



Sam Andrey, Director of Financial Policy at Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities
June 13



Sam Andrey He/Him · 2nd
Director, Strategic Review Secretariat, Ontar
Universities Research

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