

Vice-Admiral Drew Robertson (Ret'd) CMM, MSM, CD



VAdm Robertson began his career with the Canadian Forces in 1973. He commanded HMCS ANNAPOLIS and then the east coast flagship HMCS ATHABASKAN during a NATO deployment in the 1990s. Command of the Canadian Atlantic Fleet in 2001 led to sailing as the commander of the Canadian Task Group when it deployed to the international campaign against terrorism in the weeks after 9/11. That led to command of a multi-national task group of ships from seven nations in the waters across the North Arabian Sea and into the Persian Gulf.

His senior shore postings included Director of NATO Policy in 1998 and Director General International Security Policy in 2003. He took command of Canada's navy in 2006. During his tenure the fleet served worldwide. At the same time, work was progressed to modernize or develop all of the platforms that will make up the future fleet. The Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship design was begun and contracts for the mid-life refit of our frigates and the long term maintenance of our submarines were signed.

His continuing concern throughout his command was to develop a new approach to building Canada's government fleets. He initiated work toward a multi-decade strategy that would give the marine industry, including shipyards in particular, the confidence they needed in successive Governments' plans if they were to invest in the infrastructure and personnel that are indispensable for industry revitalization and success. After VAdm Robertson had retired in 2009 that work led to what was eventually to become the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy and now the National Shipbuilding Strategy.

In recent years he has been an active member of the CDA Institute board of directors while also supporting the Naval Association of Canada. After the 2015 election that support included arguing for defence investments in front of both the House and Senate committees