



**Host, Dr. Youri Cormier**

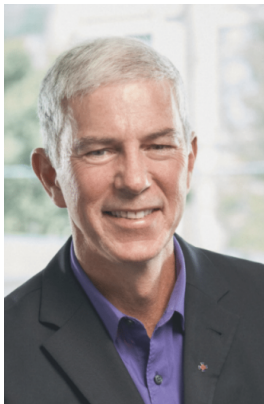
*Executive Director, Conference of Defence Associations Institute*

Youri Cormier is a graduate of Concordia University (BComm/BA), the Royal Military College of Canada (MA) and King's College London (PhD). He has served in various senior executive roles in the non-profit sector in professional theatre, environmentalism, and youth civic & electoral engagement.

Prior to joining the CDA Institute, he taught international security, war & strategy, geopolitics, land power theorists, operational concepts, and human rights & justice with the Canadian Forces College, the Royal Military College of Canada (where he still serves as an Adjunct Professor), as well as with Johns Hopkins University and King's College London.

He served as a human rights observer in Zapatista-controlled areas of Chiapas, Mexico, and later conducted research on Latin American indigenous insurgencies on behalf of the Canadian Department of National Defense. He has held a research & speechwriting fellowship at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels, where he contributed to policy papers on climate change and food/water security, NATO-Russia relations, Belarus, and drone use in countering improvised explosive devices.

In 2016, he published the book: “War as Paradox: Clausewitz and Hegel on Fighting Doctrines and Ethics (McGill Queens University Press), which traces the origin and current-day significance of dialectical war theory. It was awarded a prestigious publication grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and has since become a bestseller in the field, having been integrated into university curriculum internationally.



**Host, LGen. (ret'd) Guy Thibault**

*Former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, President of the Conference of Defence Associations, CDA Institute Chair of the Board*

Lieutenant-General Guy R. Thibault retired from the Canadian Forces (CF) in August 2016 after 38 years of service. As a General Officer, he served as Commander Land Force Central Area; Deputy Commander Canadian Army; as well as the Defence Deputy CIO/CF J6 and Communications and Electronics Branch Leader.

From 2011-2013 he served in as the first Canadian Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board an entity of the Organization of American States. He concluded his military service as the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff serving three years as the second in command of the CF and was responsible and accountable to the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Deputy Minister to coordinate and direct strategic programs to ensure defence policy and strategic objectives were achieved. `



**Speaker, LGen Frances Allen**

*Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces*

Lieutenant-General Frances Allen enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1983. After graduation from Queen's University in 1987 with an Honours Degree in Statistics, Lieutenant-General Allen completed her CELE Air training in 1988. Following CELE training, her early operational postings were to 764 Communications Squadron, the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics in

Kingston, Canadian Forces Station Carp and 76 Communications Group.

Lieutenant-General Allen has commanded at multiple levels throughout her career including Officer Commanding the National Systems Management Centre in Ottawa, at the Aerospace and Telecommunications Engineering Support Squadron in Trenton as well as the Canadian Forces Network Operations Centre and the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group.

Staff appointments have included the Operations Officer for the Information Protection Centre, Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, Director Support Operations in the Strategic Joint Staff. On promotion in 2014 to Brigadier-General, she assumed the post of Director General Defence Security at NDHQ. Lieutenant-General Allen also served as Director General Cyberspace, Director General Information Management Operations at NDHQ and Joint Force Cyber Component Commander. She was appointed Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff after being promoted to Major-General in June 2018. She was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General in July 2020.

In July 2020, Lieutenant-General Allen was appointed to serve as Military Representative of Canada to the NATO Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. She returned to Canada in June 2021 to assume the role of Vice Chief of Defence Staff, the first woman to hold this position in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Lieutenant-General Allen is a graduate of Queen's University, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College and Canadian Forces College National Security Program. She holds a Masters' Degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College and has been invested as a Commander of the Order of Military Merit.



**Keynote Speaker, The Hon. Anita Anand**

*Minister of National Defence, Canada*

The Honourable Anita Anand has served as Canada's Minister of National Defence since October 2021. Minister Anand was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Oakville in 2019 and previously served as Minister of Public Services and Procurement, a role in which she led the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and personal protective equipment for Canada.

As Minister of National Defence, Minister Anand is focused on building a Canadian Armed Forces where all members feel protected and respected when they serve, delivering Ukraine the military aid that it needs to win, and building a modern military by investing in new capabilities for our soldiers, sailors and aviators.

Born and raised in rural Nova Scotia, Minister Anand has worked as a scholar, lawyer, and researcher. She has been a legal academic, including as a Professor of Law at the University of Toronto where she held the J.R. Kimber Chair in Investor Protection and Corporate Governance. She served as Associate Dean and was a member of the Governing Board of Massey College and the Director of Policy and Research at the Capital Markets Research Institute, Rotman School of Management. She has also taught law at Yale Law School, Queen's University, and Western University.

Minister Anand has completed extensive research on the regulation of financial markets, corporate governance, and shareholder rights, and has appeared regularly in the media to discuss these topics. In 2015, she was appointed to the Government of Ontario's Expert Committee to Consider Financial Advisory and Financial Planning Policy Alternatives. She has conducted research for Ontario's Five-Year Review Committee, the federal Wise Person's Committee, and the Task Force to Modernize Securities Legislation in Canada. In 2019, the Royal Society of Canada awarded her the Yvan Allaire Medal for outstanding contributions in governance relating to private and public organizations.

Minister Anand holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Studies from Queen's University, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Jurisprudence from the University of Oxford, a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University, and a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1994.

Minister Anand and her husband, John, raised their four children in Oakville.



**Speaker, MGen Lise Bourgon**

*Chief Military Personnel, Canadian Armed Forces*

Major-General Lise Bourgon joined the military in 1987 under the ROTP training plan and was selected to attend Le Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean where she graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration.

Following wings training in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1994, she was posted to 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in Shearwater where she served on HMCS Preserver, NCSM Ville De Quebec and HMCS Toronto. In 1998, she was transferred to 406 Maritime Operational Training Squadron, where she served as a pilot instructor.

Following her promotion to Major in 2001, she was posted to Ottawa in the Directorate of Air Requirements - Maritime as a Project Director working on projects such as the Maritime Helicopter Program and the Self-Defence Program.

She was posted back to 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in 2004 to serve as the Detachment Commander on HMCS Montreal. Following her deployment, she was appointed as the Wing Plans and Tasks Officer in 2005. She graduated from the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Force College in Toronto in 2007.

Following her promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, she was appointed the Commanding Officer of 406 Maritime Operational Training Squadron in 2007 and served in Shearwater, NS until July 2009 when she was chosen to be the Executive Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff in Ottawa.

In June 2011, she was promoted to Colonel and posted as the NATO Liaison Officer at the NATO Air Headquarters in Ramstein, Germany. After only two years in Germany, she was appointed as the new 12 Wing Commander in Shearwater, Nova Scotia. Following her tour as Wing Commander, she was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-general and deployed as the Joint Task Force Commander for OP IMPACT. Upon her return from deployment, she was assigned to Canada Joint Operational Command as the Chief of Operations. In August 2016, she was transferred to the Strategic Joint Staff as Director General Operations. In 2018, she assumed the duties of Chief of Staff, Operations at the Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC).



In 2021, she completed a one-year Defence Fellowship assignment with the Centre of International and Defence and Policy at Queens' University. Since April 21, she is assigned as the Deputy Commander of Military Personnel Command. In addition to her daily job, MGen Bourgon is the Canadian Armed Forces Women, Peace, and Security champion.

MGen Bourgon is a graduate of Air Warfare College, holds a Master Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University and a Master in Public Administration from the Royal Military College of Canada. She is married to Martin Roy, and they have two lovely children.



**Moderator, Ambassador Kerry Buck**

*Former Canadian Ambassador to NATO, CDA Institute Board Member*

Ms. Buck (BA Hons, Political Science, University of Western Ontario; Common Law and Civil Law, LLB, BCL, McGill University) joined Canada's then Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1991.

She most recently served as Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council (NATO). From 2011 to 2015 she served as Political Director and Assistant Deputy Minister for International Security and Political Affairs. Prior to that, she held Assistant Deputy Minister portfolios for Africa and for Latin America and the Caribbean, and was the head of the Afghanistan Task Force. She has also served in a number of other senior positions at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, including Director General for the Middle East and Maghreb, Afghanistan, Public Diplomacy and Federal-Provincial Affairs, and Director for Human Rights. She was also posted to the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Outside of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, Ms. Buck served in the Privy Council Office as Director of Operations for Machinery of Government Secretariat, as Director of Policy and International Programs at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, with the International Development Research Centre and the Constitutional Law Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General of Ontario.

Ms. Buck speaks English and French. She is married to Michael Pearson and has a son and three step-daughters.



**Speaker, Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho**

*Former Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Former Ambassador of Mexico to Canada, Senior Fellow at Foreign Policy Institute, SAIS, and John Hopkins University*

Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho is one of the most senior and experienced Mexican diplomats. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Law from Iberoamericana University in Mexico City and a LLM for Georgetown University.

He joined the Mexican Foreign Service in 1988. During his 24 years of diplomatic career, he gained vast experience and played a key role in addressing emerging global challenges, both political and economic. Most significantly, he led negotiations on what today is known as the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, a global deal between countries, pharmaceutical industry, laboratories, and civil society to ensure greater coordination and coherence in responding to future global pandemics, and along with the Swiss Ambassador to the UN, he led the drafting and negotiations of the UN Global Compact for a safe, orderly, and regular migration adopted in December 2018.

He served as Ambassador of Mexico to Canada from March 2019 to June 2022, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations from February 2016 to February 2019, Ambassador to the European Union as well as the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2013-2016); Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Office of the UN and other international organizations based in Geneva, Switzerland (2009-2013), as well as Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore and to the Union of Myanmar and the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam (2006-2009).

Additionally, Ambassador Gomex Camacho is currently teaching as a Senior Fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC.

*Note: Ambassador Gómez Camacho is visually impaired.*



**Moderator, Col. Charles Davies (ret'd)**

*Former Director of Strategic Planning for DND's Materiel Group, CDA Institute Senior Fellow*

*Areas of Expertise: Defence procurement, National Security and Defence policy, Defence management*

Colonel Charles Davies (Retired) is a former Canadian Armed Forces Logistics officer and Public Servant. He held a number of senior positions in the Department of National Defence, including four years as the strategic planning director for the Material Group and three years as the senior director responsible for material acquisition and support policy across the Department. He is also a former chair of the senior NATO committee responsible for Alliance policies and processes related to the acquisition and life cycle management of major defence systems. Since retiring from DND in 2013 he has been researching and writing on defence management, defence procurement, and national security and defence policy issues.



**Speaker, Jessica Davis**

*Insight, President and Principal Consultant*

Jessica Davis is the President and principal consultant of Insight Threat Intelligence, a former CSIS senior strategic analyst, and the author of *Women in Modern Terrorism: From Liberations Wars to Global Jihad* (2017).



**Speaker, Gen Wayne Eyre**

*Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces*

Gen Eyre grew up on a farm near Wadena, Saskatchewan, and spent his high school years in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He joined Army Cadets at age 12 and has been in uniform ever since.

Gen Eyre attended Royal Roads Military College (RRMC) Victoria and Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston. Upon commissioning in 1988 he joined Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and has had the great privilege of spending

the majority of his career in command or deputy command positions, including commanding 3rd Battalion PPCLI, 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, 3rd Canadian Division and Joint Task Force West, Deputy Commanding General – Operations for XVIII (US) Airborne Corps, Deputy Commander Military Personnel Command, Deputy Commander United Nations Command in Korea, and for a short time Commander of Military Personnel Command. He became Commander Canadian Army on 20 August 2019 and was appointed as Acting Chief of the Defence Staff on 24 February 2021. General Eyre was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff on 25 November 2021.

Operationally, Gen Eyre has commanded a rifle platoon with the United Nations Force in Cyprus; 2PPCLI's Reconnaissance Platoon with the UN Protection Force in Croatia (including the Medak Pocket); a rifle company in Bosnia with NATO's Stabilization Force; the Canadian Operational Mentor and Liaison Team in Kandahar, Afghanistan advising 1-205 Afghan National Army Brigade in combat; as the Commanding General of NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan, where he oversaw the force generation, institutional training, and professional development of the Afghan National Security Forces; and as the first non-U.S. Deputy Commander of United Nations Command Korea in its 69 year history, and as such is the most senior Canadian officer ever permanently stationed in the Asia Pacific region. Among various domestic operations, he was the military liaison to the Government of Manitoba for the 1997 floods, commanded a company fighting the 1998 BC forest fires, commanded the Task Force that secured the 2010 G8 Summit, and commanded the military response to both the 2015 Saskatchewan wildfires and the 2016 Fort McMurray evacuation.

As a staff officer, Gen Eyre has served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Land Force Western Area Headquarters, in the Directorate of Defence Analysis at NDHQ, and as the J3 of Canadian Expeditionary Force Command. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course, the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the U.S. Marine Corps School of Advanced Warfighting, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science and three Masters Degrees (Military Studies, Operational Studies and Strategic Studies). His decorations include the Order of Military Merit in the rank of Commander, the Meritorious Service Cross, the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation, the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation, the Order of National Security Merit from South Korea and was three times awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit, including at the rank of Commander.



**Speaker, Jānis Garisons**

*State Secretary for the Minister of Defense, Latvia*

Jānis Garisons is the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Latvia since August 2015. In this capacity, Mr. Garisons is overseeing rapid defence budget and capabilities increase to prepare the country for the challenges it faces. In his previous position as the Undersecretary of State – Policy Director in Latvia’s Ministry of Defence, he was the architect and organizer of Latvia’s defence policy, defence planning and international operations’ policy, both nationally, and representing Latvia within the NATO, the European Union, and other international cooperation formats. He joined the Ministry of Defence after an established career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, where he served as the Director of the Security Policy Department. In his nine years of foreign service, he was dealing with arms control issues, Russia and CIS, and was posted as the First Secretary at the Embassy of Latvia in Oslo, Norway.

In 1996 he received a Master’s degree in history from the University of Latvia, and in 2014 he earned his Master degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. In 2007 he received the State Award of Latvia.



**Speaker, Wendy Gilmour**

*Assistant Secretary, General Defence Investment, NATO*

Wendy Gilmour was appointed NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment in November 2022, the division responsible for facilitating the development and adoption of cutting-edge, innovative and interoperable capabilities, critical to ensuring the Alliance’s ability to undertake the full spectrum of missions and operations.

Prior to joining NATO, Wendy Gilmour had a 32 year career in Canada’s foreign affairs and national defence departments, including positions responsible for political-military affairs, post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction, international trade policy and international defence materiel cooperation. She served as Canada’s High Commissioner (Ambassador) to Pakistan (2018-22), Director General Trade and Export Controls (2015-18), and Director General International and Industry Programs and Deputy National Armaments Director (2011-15).

She has been posted as a Canadian diplomat in Southern Africa, the United Kingdom and Nigeria; and served in the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina and as a Political Advisor (POLAD) to the first three Commanders of NATO’s Kosovo Force. Post 9/11,



she was assigned to the Canadian Joint Task Force South-west Asia in US CENTCOM, and subsequently to Ottawa as Director Peace Operations, i.a. supporting Canada's deployment to ISAF, with responsibility for the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar, Afghanistan. She also served as POLAD to the Commander North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, USA.

Ms. Gilmour holds a BA (Honours) in Political Studies and History from Queen's University at Kingston, and served in the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve as a Logistics Officer.



**Speaker, Adm Chris W. Grady**

*Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Department of Defense.*

Admiral Christopher W. Grady serves as the twelfth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Nation's second highest-ranking military officer.

A native of Newport, Rhode Island, he is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

A career Surface Warfare Officer, Grady served aboard USS Moosbrugger (DD 980) and USS Princeton (CG 59). He first commanded USS Chief (MCM 14) Crew Echo and deployed in command of USS Ardent (MCM 12). Grady later commanded USS Cole (DDG 67), where he deployed as part of NATO's Standing Naval Forces Mediterranean; Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 22, where he deployed to the Arabian Gulf as sea combat commander for the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; and Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 1/Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group, where he deployed for nearly 10 months to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf conducting combat operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Ashore, Grady served in the Joint Chiefs of Staff and then as naval aide to the Chief of Naval Operations, as executive assistant to the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs, as the deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council in the White House; and as the assistant branch head, Europe and Eurasia Politico-Military Affairs Branch (OPNAV N524). As a flag officer, he served as Director of the Maritime Operations Center (N2/3/5/7), Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic; Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet/ Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO/ Deputy Commander, U.S. Naval Forces

Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa. He most recently served as the Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and the Navy's Service Component Commander to both U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Strategic Command, and executed Task Force Atlantic in coordination with U.S. Naval Forces Europe.

Grady is a distinguished graduate of Georgetown University where he earned a Master of Arts in National Security Studies while concurrently participating as a fellow in Foreign Service at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. He is also a distinguished graduate of the National War College earning a Master of Science in National Security Affairs.

His personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with four gold stars, Meritorious Service Medal with four gold stars, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars, and the Combat "V," Joint Service Achievement Medal, and The "Old Salt" award. Grady is a joint specialty officer.



**Speaker, Susan Gregson**

*Fellow at the China Institute, University of Alberta*

Susan Gregson served in the Canadian public service with distinction for 35 years, occupying several senior executive positions. Between 2013 and 2016, she was Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia Pacific at Global Affairs Canada. Prior to her last assignment, she served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Human Resources, Director General of Assignments and Executive Management, Director General, Regional Strategies, World Markets Branch, and Director, Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and International Women's Equality Division, all in the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. She worked for 20 years in Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Susan has also represented Canada abroad. Her most noteworthy assignments were as Deputy High Commissioner in London, Consul General of Canada in Shanghai and Minister-Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. She holds a B.A. in anthropology from the University of British Columbia and was Canada-China Scholar at Nankai University and at Fudan University. Susan is a Co-Director at the School on Public Management and Policy at the University of Ottawa and a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.



**Speaker, Rafael Grossi**

*Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency*  
IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi assumed office on 3 December 2019.

Mr. Grossi is a diplomat with more than 35 years of experience in the fields of non-proliferation and disarmament. In 2013, he was appointed Ambassador of Argentina to Austria and Argentine Representative to the IAEA and other Vienna-based International Organizations.

Before assuming office as the IAEA's Director General, Mr. Grossi was president-designate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and from 2014 to 2016 served as president of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). He was the NSG's first president to serve two successive terms. In 2015, Mr. Grossi presided over the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, securing unanimous approval for the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, an important milestone in international efforts following the 2011 Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear accident.

From 2010 to 2013, he served as Assistant Director General for Policy and Chief of Cabinet at the IAEA, having previously held senior positions in the Argentinian Foreign Service, including as Political Affairs Director General from 2007 to 2009.

Mr. Grossi was Chief of Cabinet at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague from 2002 to 2007. Prior to this, he served in the Argentinian Foreign Ministry, including as Head of Embassy in Belgium and Luxemburg from 1998 to 2002, and as Argentine Representative to NATO from 1998 to 2001. Mr. Grossi joined the Argentinian Foreign Ministry in 1985.

Mr. Grossi is an International Gender Champion, promoting gender balance in the nuclear field.

He holds a PhD in International Relations, international History and Politics from University of Geneva, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, from which he also received his Master's degree. He began his academic journey at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina and at the Diplomatic Academy of Argentina.

Mr. Grossi has received numerous national awards, including Brazil's Order of Naval Merit; the National Medal on the occasion of 30th Anniversary of Independence of Kazakhstan; the Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold with Sash for Services to the Republic of Austria, and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

His honorary degrees and academic distinctions include, the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina's International Chair for Sustainable Development, Common Good and Peace; an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Buenos Aires; an honorary degree in Nuclear Engineering from Polytechnic University of Milan; and an honorary doctorate in Global Studies from Busan University of Foreign Studies.



**Speaker, Mike Hamilton**

*SVP, Sales and Distribution, Marketing, RBC Insurance*

As Chief Distribution Officer and Senior Vice President, Sales & Distribution and Marketing, Mike Hamilton is responsible for leading the RBC Insurance® Sales and Distribution team across Canada and across multiple channels. This includes more than 1,400 employees who serve our personal and business clients spanning our various life, health, home, auto, travel, wealth, and group and creditor insurance solutions. The RBC Insurance distribution network includes over 50 stores, an advice centre, online channels and advisors who are focused on small business clients as well as high net worth clients. In addition, there are teams that provide relationship management for our third-party broker network.

Mike also leads the national office Sales and Distribution team, consisting of sales enablement and sales support professionals who help drive productivity, revenue growth and improve the advisor and client experience. Mike joined RBC in February 2013, and has more than 25 years of experience from various senior roles in North American financial services companies. He has extensive knowledge of the insurance industry, having held senior positions at a number of blue-chip insurance companies. Mike has a strong track record of leading and developing top-performing sales teams and creating an exceptional client experience.

Mike is one of the proud creators of RBC Salute, an RBC Employee Resource Group whose vision it is to connect with service men and women within RBC, support their families and become an ally through a sense of pride and service.

Mike holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Norwich University, Military College of Vermont and an MBA from Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Early in his career, Mike spent ten years serving in the U.S. Army.

Mike is married and has three daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, volleyball and skiing. Mike gives back to the community by being involved in Military Veteran Affairs.



**Speaker, VAdm (ret'd) Darren Hawco**

*Former Chief of Force Development, CDA Institute Board Member*

VAdm (Retd) Darren Hawco is a former military officer and executive with extensive public service, military and allied experience in policy development, strategic planning, and capability standardization and development. Currently an Executive Advisor with Deloitte Canada, Darren's recent uniformed Flag officer appointments included Canada's Military Representative to NATO in Brussels (2018-2020), Chief of Force Development (2015-2018), Director General Cyberspace (2013-2015), and Commander of the Atlantic Fleet (2012-2013). As Canada's MILREP, he was directly involved in the development of the NATO Military Strategy, as CFD he was the military pen for the 2017 Defence policy Strong Secure Engaged, and as DG Cyber, he was responsible for the initial development of Canada's defensive and offensive cyber program. Academically, Darren has a BAdmin from the College Militaire Royale (1989), a Masters in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College (2004) and a Masters in Defence Policy and Public Administration from the Royal Military College (2008).



**Speaker, Chris Henderson**

*Deputy Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard*

Mr. Chris Henderson is an accomplished senior executive with more than 30 years of national and international experience in national security and public safety. He returned to the Canadian Coast Guard on January 6, 2020 as Deputy Commissioner, Operations. Deputy Commissioner Henderson originally joined the Canadian Coast Guard as Director General, National Strategies in May 2016. Since 2017, he served as the Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Affairs at the Department of National Defence. Prior to 2016, Deputy Commissioner Henderson was the Director General, Strategic Communications, Privy Council Office where he was responsible for the coordination of all Government of Canada public communications. From 2009-2014, Deputy Commissioner Henderson held a number of Director General positions within Canada Border Services Agency. Prior to joining the public service, Mr. Henderson had a distinguished career with the Royal Canadian Navy.





**Speaker, Jill Hruby**

*Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, United States*

Jill Hruby was sworn as the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the US Department of Energy (DOE) and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She was confirmed by the Senate on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Administrator Hruby will lead the NNSA in achieving our Nation's nuclear security missions by ensuring the Nuclear Security Enterprise is bringing cutting-edge science and creativity to sustain and fully understand our stockpile without testing; providing new technologies and procedures to lower cost and reduce the time to deliver all mission requirements; staying ahead of our adversaries; and developing advanced capabilities to enhance nuclear security, arms control and Navy reactors.

With an extensive background in science and engineering spanning more than 30 years, Jill Hruby brings a wealth of national security experience to the NNSA. Prior to her nomination as Administrator, Jill Hruby served as Director of Sandia National Laboratories from 2015-17.

Since her retirement from Sandia National laboratories, Jill Hruby served as the inaugural Sam Nunn Distinguished Fellow at the Nuclear Threat Initiative from 2018-19. In addition, she has been a member of the Defense Science Board, the National Nuclear Security Administration Defense Programs Advisory Committee, and the National Academy of Science Committee for International Security and Arms Control. She has served on a variety of technical advisory committees and non-profit organization boards. She is a frequent participant in international dialogues; a spokesperson for women in engineering; and a mentor for emerging leaders.

Hruby earned her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and her master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, both in mechanical engineering. She has authored numerous publications and reports, holds three patents, and received an a&D 100 Award. In 2016, she received the Suzanne Jenniches Upward Mobility Award from the Society of Women Engineers. In 2017, Business Insider named her the second most powerful female engineer. Jill has received the Department of Energy's Secretary's Exceptional Service Award, the National Nuclear Security Administrator's Distinguished Service Gold Award, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.



**Moderator, Dr. Thomas Juneau**

*GPSIA, University of Ottawa*

**Thomas Juneau** is associate professor at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. His research focuses on the Middle East, intelligence, and Canadian foreign and defence policy. He is a non-resident fellow with the Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies. From 2003 until 2014, he worked with Canada's Department of National Defence, mostly as a policy analyst covering the Middle East. He tweets @thomasjuneau.

Thomas Juneau est professeur agrégé au sein de l'École supérieure d'affaires publiques et internationales de l'Université d'Ottawa. Ses recherches portent principalement sur le Moyen-Orient, le renseignement, et la politique étrangère et de défense du Canada. De 2003 à 2014, il a travaillé pour le ministère de la Défense nationale du Canada, surtout comme analyste politique couvrant le Moyen-Orient. Il tweete @thomasjuneau.



**Captain Nichola Goddard laureate, Major Alayna Kang**

Major Alayna Kang is an Army Logistics Officer originally from Richmond Hill, Ontario. She joined the Canadian Armed Forces through the ROTP program in 2007 and attended McMaster University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies. Major Kang has held positions as the Quartermaster of 2 Combat Engineer Regiment and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment as well as an operations planner within the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group. She

has had the opportunity to deploy to the Philippines with the Disaster Assistance Relief Team, to Iraq on Operation Impact with CANSOFCOM, and most recently deployed to Latvia as the Commanding Officer of the Intermediate Staging Terminal responsible for a multimodal fleet rotation from Ukraine and Latvia back to Canada. Major Kang is currently employed as the Officer Commanding Logistics Support Squadron at CFB Kingston and is the military co-chair of the local Defence Women's Advisory Organization. She is blessed to have the support of her husband, Major Justin Yoo and together they have two young children.



**Speaker, Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk**

*President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council*

Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk was born in Puvirnituk, Northern Quebec (Nunavik). Raised by her grandparents Lydia and Aisa Koperqualuk, her elementary schooling was done in Nunavik. With a Bachelor's degree in

Political Science from Concordia University, Montreal, she holds a Master's degree in Anthropology from Laval University, Quebec City.

Fluent in Inuktitut, English and French, Lisa acted as Communications Officer for Makivik Corporation for seven years and participated in various regional, national and international fora such as Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assemblies in Kuujuaq 2002, in Barrow 2006 (as a delegate) and elected in July 2018 in Uqiaq as Vice-President International for ICC Canada.

Lisa is a member of the Kivik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) since 2010, an independent decision-making body responsible for evaluating and reviewing development projects in Nunavik. Created by virtue of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), KEQC is governed the JBNQA and the Environmental Quality Act of Quebec. As the co-founder and former president of Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik, the issues of social justice concerning Inuit women and children lead her to spearhead a study looking into the Inuit women's situation in Nunavik based on their perspective. The Restore Hope and Peace report raised issues expressed by Inuit women of Nunavik on housing needs, education and employment, violence and abuse and the justice system in Nunavik. Her mandate as Researcher with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls ended with the submission of the Final Report, Reclaiming Power and Place of the National Inquiry in June 2019.

Lisa served as ICC's Vice President of International Affairs from 2018-2022 before being acclaimed as President at the 14th General Assembly in Kuujuaq, Nunavik on July 18, 2022. As VP of International Affairs Lisa focused much of her work in the areas of international shipping regulations successfully leading the ICC to receive membership to the International Marine Organization (IMO) where Inuit are the first Indigenous People to be represented under their own status. The IMO recognize Ms. Koperqualuk as Honorary Fellow of the IMO due to her tireless work on behalf of Inuit.

She works for Inuit interests in self-determination advocating Inuit political and economic autonomy, social justice (particularly through Inuit law), and protection of the environment, culture and language.



**Speaker, Yulia Kovaliv**

*Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada*

Yuliya Kovaliv was appointed Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada and arrived to Ottawa on March 29, 2022.

Yuliya Kovaliv has almost ten years of experience in executive positions in public administration and Ukraine's investment promotion.

Prior to joining the Embassy Ambassador Kovaliv held the position of the Deputy Head of Office of the President of Ukraine in charge of economic policy development and IFIs coordination. She also served as the Deputy Chair of the Supervisory Board of National State-Owned oil&gas company "Naftogaz of Ukraine" (2019-2021), the Deputy Secretary of the National Investment Council of Ukraine under the President Ukraine and the Member of the National Reform Council. In 2017- 2019 Ambassador Kovaliv served as the Head of the Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine under the President of Ukraine, advisory platform, which included global business leaders and IFIs, where she was in charge of investment promotion, policy dialog and FDI attraction.

In 2015 – 2016 Ambassador Kovaliv served as the First Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade overseeing reforms of privatisation, corporate governance of state-owned enterprises, investment policy, liberalization of the energy sector and IP. In 2016-2017 she served as a Chairwomen of a newly-launched Supervisory Board of National State-Owned oil&gas company "Naftogaz of Ukraine", aimed to bring governance of the biggest state-owned company to the OECD standards, open access to global financial markets and strengthen Ukraine's energy security. In 2014-2015 Ambassador Kovaliv served as the Commissioner of the National Regulatory Commission for Energy and Utilities. Before joining the Regulator, Yuliya Kovaliv was in charge of public administration and energy sector reform coordination at the Coordination Center of Economic Reforms.

Prior to her career in public sector Ambassador Kovaliv spent 6 years working in the private sector.

Yuliya Kovaliv was born in Ivano-Frankivsk. She holds a Master of Economics from the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" and a Master of Public Administration from the National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine.

Ambassador Kovaliv is married with two children.



**Moderator, Colonel (ret'd) Pierre Leblanc**

*Former Commander of Canadian Forces Northern Area, former Program Manager of the North Warning System for Raytheon Canada Ltd.*

Pierre was born and raised in Montréal, Québec, Canada. At 17, he joined the Canadian Forces and attended the Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean in 1967. After graduating, he joined the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment (Infantry) and saw service in a number of countries including England, Germany (NATO), Cyprus (peace keeping), India and Nepal (Defence Adviser). He commanded 1 Commando and the Infantry School, and held senior staff appointments in the National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). In 1995, he took command of Canadian Forces Northern Area (Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories) where he served until his retirement in 2000.

Pierre has extensive experience in the Arctic where he first travelled on a sovereignty patrol in 1972. He has repeatedly travelled in and out of the Arctic. His command appointment as Commander of Canadian Forces Northern Area allowed him to travel extensively including Alaska and Greenland. He has lived more than nine years in the Arctic. He has been an advocate for improved security in the Arctic since 1998. He was instrumental in the revived Canadian government focus on arctic security. He has been published and repeatedly quoted in the media. He has appeared as a subject matter expert on arctic security and sovereignty on several national television channels in both French and English. He has made presentations in a number of Canadian universities. He has consulted on arctic matters with a number of federal departments, the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Senate. Pierre has provided advice to several defence related companies.

Pierre served with Raytheon Canada Limited as the Program Manager of the North Warning System from April 2014 to April 2016. During that period, he travelled the Arctic widely to nurture his arctic network of business, government and Inuit leadership contacts. He continues to provide independent advice on the Canadian Arctic.

He is an active participant at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council - Prairie and Northern Region. He is a Council Member with the Gerson Lehrman Group of New York, a member of the Executive Forum of the Coleman Research Group also of New York and a member of Guidepoint Global Advisors also of New York with offices around the world.





**Speaker, Sue Ling Yip**

*Risk Consulting & Financial Crimes, KPMG*

Sue Ling Yip compte plus de 25 ans d'expérience, au Canada et à l'étranger, dans le secteur des services bancaires et financiers. Elle est spécialisée en conformité réglementaire et en lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent (LBA); son expérience englobe aussi les opérations de première ligne ainsi que la gestion de programmes de conformité d'entreprise, les audits internes, les enquêtes et les mesures correctives. Elle a aussi travaillé en gestion des risques d'entreprise et d'exploitation.

Avant de se joindre à KPMG, Sue-Ling était leader du groupe LBA canadien d'un cabinet mondial de services-conseils; elle a aussi occupé divers postes au sein de la division Audit et du groupe Conformité LBA de l'une des cinq grandes banques canadiennes. Auparavant, elle avait été chef de la conformité d'une banque commerciale, examinatrice de la conformité d'un organisme de réglementation canadien et chef du programme LBA d'une banque mondiale.



**Speaker, Adm (ret'd) Girish Luthra**

*Former Commander-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, Indian Navy*

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra is Former Commander-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, and Southern Naval Command, Indian Navy, who superannuated in 2019 after nearly forty years of service. A Navigation and Direction specialist, he has commanded Indian Navy's Western Fleet, and frontline warships, including aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He has held key positions heading Policy and Plans, Operations, Foreign Cooperation, Net Assessments, and Disaster Management. An alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, India and Naval War College, USA, he has been Deputy Naval Adviser at High Commission of India, London. He has steered preparation of key official documents like Indian Maritime Doctrine, Maritime Capability Perspective Plan, and Defence Space Roadmap 2030. He has won awards for his academic and professional performances and has authored numerous research papers. He is Former Chairman, Maritime History Society, Mumbai, Vice President Yachting Association of India, and Trustee Chairman, Sea Cadet Corps, India. Post his superannuation, he has been Managing Director of a Biotech company, Strategic Adviser with a leading corporate house and Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, a leading multi-disciplinary think tank of India. For his distinguished service of a high order, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2008, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2012, and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2017, by the President of India.



**Speaker, Ambassador Deborah Lyons**

*Former UN Special Representative for Afghanistan*

Deborah Lyons completed her appointment as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UNAMA in June 2022, after having spent over two years leading the UN's operations during this tumultuous period. She has spearheaded the UN's support to the peace efforts, increased regional cooperation on Afghanistan, led the preparations for the successful 2020 Afghanistan donor conference in Geneva, oversaw the UN's continued operations after the Taliban takeover in August 2021, advocated for measures to stabilize the macroeconomic environment tittering under sanctions, and facilitated sustained international engagement while serving as a strong and visible advocate for the rights of all Afghans.

Ambassador Lyons is a diplomat with 25 years of professional experience in international relations, political affairs, security management, and development efforts. She served as Ambassador of Canada to Israel (2016 -2020), as Ambassador of Canada to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (2013 -2016), and as Deputy Ambassador at the Embassy of Canada in Washington (2010 -2013).

She has held several senior positions with Canada's Department of Global Affairs, including as Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategic Policy and Planning and Chief Strategist, Director-General for North America Commercial Affairs, and Director for International Finance. Immediately upon entering the foreign service, she served at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo for five years leading relations with Japan in the high-tech sector.

She has also worked with Canada's Department of Natural Resources, the Privy Council Office, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Prior to joining the Government of Canada, Ms. Lyons owned and managed an environment consulting firm.



**Speaker, Hon. Peter MacKay**

*Former Minister of National Defence, Canada*

Peter MacKay was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. After graduating with an arts degree from Acadia University in 1987, he studied law at Dalhousie University and was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in June 1991. With strong family ties to the local area, he returned to New Glasgow to open a private law practice specializing in criminal and family law. In 1993, he accepted an appointment as Crown Attorney for the Central Region of Nova Scotia. He prosecuted cases at all levels, including youth and provincial courts as well as the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. MacKay was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 1997. He was re-elected in his northern Nova Scotia constituency in 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011. On May 18th, 2011, Mr. MacKay was reappointed as Minister of National Defence. Mr. MacKay also serves as Regional Minister for Nova Scotia.

In his first five years in the House of Commons, he served as House Leader for the Progressive Conservative caucus. On May 31, 2003, Mr. MacKay was elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. In March 2004, following the unification of the Progressive Conservative Party and the Canadian Alliance Party, he was named Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Prior to his current responsibilities, Mr. MacKay served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway.

He has served on several volunteer boards, including New Leaf and Tearmann House as well as being active in Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club and the YMCA.

A sports enthusiast, Mr. MacKay enjoys running, rugby, baseball, football and hockey. He is married to human rights activist Nazanin Afshin -Jam MacKay



**Speaker, Ambassador Jerry Matijila**

*Former Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations*

Ambassador Jerry Matijila is the former South African Permanent Representative to the United Nations. During his appointment to the UN, Ambassador Matijila co-chaired the UN Consultative Forum for Financing in Development and led a 15 members of the UN Security Council on peace missions to Juba, South Sudan and to the African Union Peace and Security consultations in Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia. Prior to joining the South African mission as the Permanent Representative, he was the Director General/Permanent Secretary to the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO), where he was the sherpa for G-20 and BRICS leaders.

Previously, Ambassador Matijila held roles in South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs (now Department of International Relations and Cooperation). Ambassador Matijila received his Masters from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.



**Speaker, Secretary Siemtje Möller**

*Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defense, Germany*

In 2021, Secretary Siemtje Möller was appointed as Germany's Parliamentary State Secretary of Defense. Since 2017, Secretary Möller has been elected to the Bundestag, where she has been the spokesperson for the Seeheimer Kreis between 2020-2022, and the Defense Policy spokesperson for the Social Democrats (SDP).

Previously, Secretary Möller was an educator and taught political science courses at Georg-August University of Göttingen. She has interned at the United Nations in New York, BBJ Consult in Brussels, and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C.



**Moderator, VAdm (ret'd) Mark Norman**

*Former Commander of the Canadian Navy, CDA Vice-Chair (Sea)*

Mark Norman retired from the Royal Canadian Navy in the rank of Vice-Admiral in August of 2019 after over 39 years of service.

Norman started his naval service as a reserve diesel mechanic in 1980 and rose through the ranks to be the Vice-Chief of Defence. His military career has seen him serve at sea domestically and internationally, command a warship, the Canadian Atlantic Fleet, and ultimately the Royal Canadian Navy itself. He also has extensive experience in a variety of appointments training & educating sailors, leading operations, strategic planning and managing major procurement projects.

Since retirement, Norman has applied to energy to a variety of pursuits including as Champion for the Royal Canadian Benevolent Fund, Senior Defence Strategist at Samuel Associates, contributing to the important debate about security and defence issues in Canada as both a fellow with the Global Affairs Institute and as a member of the Conference of Defence Associations Board. In his spare time, Mark loses golf balls, skis, and continues perfecting the art of safely crashing his mountain bike.



**Speaker, Sarah Paquet**

*FINTRAC, Director and Chief Executive Officer*

Sarah Paquet was appointed Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) on November 18, 2020. As the head of Canada's financial intelligence unit and anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regulator, she is responsible for ensuring the Centre facilitates the detection, prevention and deterrence of money laundering, terrorist activity financing and threats to the security of Canada. In addition to leading FINTRAC, Ms. Paquet is the Chair of the Egmont Information Exchange Working Group, which is focused on improving information sharing among the world's financial intelligence units.

Before joining FINTRAC, Ms. Paquet held numerous leadership positions across the federal public service over the past 20 years. From 2018 to 2020, she served as the first Executive Vice-President at Shared Services Canada, providing leadership to the organization as it modernized the Government of Canada enterprise IT infrastructure and enabled digital services to Canadians. Ms. Paquet attended the University of Ottawa, earning her Civil Law degree in 1993 and her Common Law degree in 2001. She serves as the Deputy Minister Champion for the University Ottawa and is focused on strengthening the relationship between the University and the Government of Canada, as well as facilitating student recruitment and enhancing student mental health. In 2021, Ms. Paquet received the Award for Commitment to the University, recognizing her as an outstanding alumna who has distinguished herself through her philanthropic activities for the University.

Ms. Paquet is also a strong advocate for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and an inspiring speaker on the topics of leadership, innovation and inclusion. In 2020, she was named one of Canada's most powerful women by the Women's Executive Network (WXN), receiving the CIBC Executive Leaders distinction. In the same year, she also received the Public Sector Champion-Government award from Women in Communications and Technology (WCT), which recognizes those who are committed to gender diversity in Canada's digital industries.





**Speaker, Hon. David Pratt**

*Former Minister of National Defence, Canada*

The Honourable David Pratt is Principal of David Pratt & Associates, a government relations and strategic consultancy firm located in Ottawa, Canada. Mr. Pratt was an elected representative at the municipal, regional and federal levels for 16 years.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1997, he was Chair of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs from 2001 to 2003. He also served two foreign ministers as a Special Envoy to Sierra Leone during the rebel war and currently serves as the Honorary Consul for Sierra Leone in Canada. He became Canada's 36th Minister of National Defence in 2003 in the Government of Prime Minister Paul Martin. As Minister, he initiated several major military procurements including the Joint Support Ship, the Fixed Wing Search and Rescue aircraft, the Maritime Helicopter Program and the Mobile Gun System.

After his political career, he spent four years in the role of Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Canadian Red Cross where his focus was improving relations between the Red Cross and all levels of government. He wrote a major report on the role of the Red Cross as "*Auxiliary to Government*" and helped draft legislation to renew the mandate of the organization.

In 2009-2010, he worked as an independent consultant and spent five months in Baghdad, Iraq as a Senior Parliamentary Expert with the USAID sponsored Iraq Legislative Strengthening Program – the largest legislative capacity building project in the world. Mr. Pratt has written scholarly papers and newspaper articles and lectured on a number of subjects including Canada's Army Reserves, grand strategy, democracy promotion, foreign intelligence, Canada-US interoperability and emergency preparedness. He has also provided briefings on defence and security matters to allied foreign militaries.

As the Principal of David Pratt & Associates, he and his Associates have served a variety of large and small clients. These include Raytheon, L3Harris, Israel Aerospace Industries, Leonardo Aircraft and Leonardo Defence, John Deere, Oshkosh Defense, Nexter, Huntington Ingalls, CGI, Armatec and AlumaPower.

On a personal note, in 2014, he was inducted as a Knight in the Order of St. George. In 2018, he participated in the prestigious Oxford Union debates at Oxford University and in 2022, he completed his first triathlon.



**Speaker, Cara Salci**

*Vice President, Strategy & Government Relations, Thales Canada*

As Vice President, Strategy & Government Relations for Thales Canada, Cara is a member of the Thales Canada leadership team led by Chris Pogue, CEO. Cara leads the strategic business planning activities in Canada and supports the Thales North America executives in assessing the business and competitive environments, maintaining a special focus on strategic priorities in Canada including offset policy and R&D funding priorities. In addition, Cara leads Thales' Canadian government relations activities across all of its business lines including defence and security, space, aerospace, digital identity and transportation. With a focus on growth for Thales Canada, Cara actively supports new opportunities to engage with industry partners, Canadian SMBs and government stakeholders to identify new growth opportunities. Cara joined Thales in 2016 as its National Director of Communications and Public Affairs, based in the company's defence and security business in Ottawa, Ontario.

Prior to her career at Thales, Cara worked in healthcare administration and has more than a decade of experience working in government at both the federal and provincial levels. Cara served in the Minister's office at the Treasury Board Secretariat and as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Minister at Environment Canada and Transport & Infrastructure Canada. Ms. Salci has an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Bio-Medical Science from the University of Guelph and a Master of Business Administration from the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University.

In 2020, Cara was recognized by Women in Defence & Security (WiDS) as an Emerging Leader and has served as a mentor young women as part of WiDS ongoing mentoring program. Cara is a current Board Member of AIAC and member of its Finance Committee, a member of CADSI's Defence Policy Implementation Advisory Committee, and a member of Canada's Defence Industry Advisory Group. Cara is also a Founding Member of the Queensway Carleton Hospital's Women in Philanthropy committee.



**Moderator, Jill Sinclair**

*Representative to the Ukraine Defence Reform Advisory Board, Canada*

Jill Sinclair has been a member of Canada's defence, geo-politics, international security and foreign policy community for most of her professional career. She is currently Canada's representative to the Ukraine Defence Reform Advisory Board and co-leads a course on Geo-Politics and National Security at the Canada School of Public Service.

She served for seven years as Assistant Deputy Minister Policy at the Dept of National Defence and Executive Director Strategic Leadership and Engagement at the Canadian Defence Academy. Prior, she was Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet at the Privy Council Office, Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat. She joined government as a Foreign Service Office, with postings in Prague, Havana and the Middle East (with regional responsibilities for Middle East peace process issues).

She was Director General, International Security Bureau; Director of the Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation division and Director of Human Security and Global Issues. She has worked closely with the UN system in New York and Geneva; NATO and the OSCE as well as the Organization of American States and ASEAN Regional Forum. She led the Ottawa Process to Ban Landmines and Canada's international Human Security initiatives, including Responsibility to Protect (R2P). She is an Associate Fellow at Chatham House, as well as Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Balsillie School of International Affairs



**2021 Ross Munro laureate, Mercedes Stephenson**

*Ottawa Bureau Chief/Host*

Mercedes Stephenson is Global News' Ottawa Bureau Chief and the host of the network's flagship national political affairs program The West Block. Leading Global News' coverage from the nation's capital, Stephenson interviews the biggest names in Canadian and international politics.

Hailing from Calgary with a background in Military and Strategic Studies, Stephenson has distinguished herself as one of Canada's foremost voices in political, defence and foreign policy journalism.

Stephenson has covered major political and leadership conventions and scandals, and provided her expertise from around the world while reporting from locales such as Latvia, France, and Washington – travelling with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on his inaugural visit to the Trump White House, Afghanistan and Niger – where she was the first television reporter ever embedded with the Canadian Special Operations Forces. Stephenson also spent time as a national columnist, featuring in numerous prominent Canadian publications, and previously hosted multiple political television programs.

Possessing a strong reputation for breaking stories and a passion for holding the powerful to account, Stephenson was the first to reveal the identity and death of Canadian suicide bomber Aaron Driver, for which she earned a nomination for the prestigious Canadian Association of Journalists Scoop Award. Stephenson's investigative reporting drew the public's attention to the mistreatment and neglect of Canadian veterans, and her reporting on how the military handles sexual misconduct led to major policy changes in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Stephenson holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Calgary where her thesis focused on information operations in Afghanistan. She also studied political journalism at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., interned at the Pentagon and studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. Crediting her passion for politics to a fascination with world events and the people behind them, Stephenson applies the same to her personal life, travelling whenever she can to meet new people and experience new places.



**Speaker, Jody Thomas**

*National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada*

Jody Thomas was appointed as National Security and Intelligence Advisor (NSIA) to the Prime Minister of Canada, effective January 11, 2022. Ms. Thomas has broad and varied experience working at senior levels in the Public Service and in a series of increasingly demanding security operations roles. Prior to being appointed NSIA, she was the Deputy Minister of National Defence.

In 1984, Ms. Thomas joined the naval reserves at age 17 and was among the first women to serve on a Canadian military vessel. Ms. Thomas began her career in the Public Service in 1988 when she was appointed Chief of Business Planning and Administration with Public Works and

Government Services Canada's Atlantic Region. Ms. Thomas then moved to the West Coast as the Business Manager of the Esquimalt Graving Dock in Victoria, British Columbia. From 1995-2010, she joined Passport Canada where she served as Manager of the Victoria Passport Office. This led to a number of senior roles within the Passport Office, culminating in Chief Operating Officer, where she managed service delivery at 35 locations involving 3,000 employees across Canada.

In 2010, Ms. Thomas joined the Canadian Coast Guard where she held the position of Deputy Commissioner of Operations for four years, during which she provided leadership and functional direction in the development of the Coast Guard's strategic and operational policy frameworks, monitored their implementation and ensured the strategic direction for the cost-effective delivery of Coast Guard programs. In September 2014, Ms. Thomas was appointed as Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations) at the Privy Council Office until her appointment as Commissioner of the Coast Guard on January 1, 2015. On March 13, 2017, she joined the Department of National Defence where she served as Senior Associate Deputy Minister. She was appointed as Deputy Minister of National Defence on October 23, 2017, a role in which she served until January 10, 2022.

Ms. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton University.



**Speaker, Representative Ho-jen Tseng**

Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada

Since 2022, Ho-jen Tseng has represented Taiwanese interests in affairs through his role as the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada. Previously, Representative Tseng served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and from 2017 – 2022, was also the Representative for the Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium. He also held appointments in the Republic of Palau, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Before his involvement in foreign affairs, Representative Tseng also taught at National Taiwan Normal University, and completed research at the Institute of International Relations at National Chengchi University in Taipei.

Representative Tseng received his BA in Foreign Languages and Literature from the National Taiwan University, his MA in East Asian Studies from National Chengchi University, his MPA

from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, and his PhD in Government and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia.



**Moderator, Gordon Venner**

*Former Senior Associate Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence, CDA Institute Board Member*

In a forty-year career in public service Mr. Venner also served as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Foreign and Defence Policy in the Privy Council Office, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Middle East and Afghanistan in the Foreign Affairs Department, and as the Government's G8 Sous-Sherpa and APEC Senior Official. He has significant experience in the Government's multilateral relationships including in the G7, the G20, the OECD, APEC, and NATO. He served as Counsellor in the Canadian Mission to the European Union 1996 to 2000, and as Ambassador to Iran 2004 to 2006. He began his career in provincial and municipal government.

Mr. Venner holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Western Ontario, and a Master's Degree from the London School of Economics.



**Speaker, General Glen D. VanHerck**

*NORAD Commander, US NORTHCOM*

General Glen D. VanHerck is Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). NORAD conducts aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning the defence of North America. USNORTHCOM partners to conduct homeland defence, civil support, and security cooperation to defence and secure the United States and its interests.

General VanHerck is a graduate of the University of Missouri and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. He has diverse operational and training background that includes assignments in the F-15C, F-35A, B2A, and B-1B with over 3,200 flight hours. He has served as an instructor pilot and flight examiner in the F-15C, B-2A, and T6A. Additionally, he has served as a U.S Air Force Weapons School instructor in the F-15C and the B-2A.



He has commanded at the squadron, group and twice at the wing level, including the 325<sup>th</sup> Weapons Squadron, the 71<sup>st</sup> Operations Group, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing. As Major General, he commanded the US Air Force Warfare Center. His staff assignments include tours as the Chief of the B-2 Program Element Monitor at Headquarters Air Combat Command, the Director of operations and Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command, the Director of plans and Integration at US Strategic Command, the Vice Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy (H5) at the Joint Staff and the Vice Director of the Joint Staff.

Prior to his selection as Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM, he was the Director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. In this capacity, he assisted the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in his role as advisor to the President and Secretary of Defense, coordinated and directed activities of the Joint Staff in support of the Chairman and served as the Staff Inspector General.

His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.



**Moderator, Professor Stefanie Von Hlatky**

*Canada Research Chair in Gender, Security and the Armed Forces,  
Director, Centre for International and Defence Policy,  
Associate Professor in the Department of Political Studies at Queen's  
University*

Stéfanie von Hlatky is the Canada Research Chair in Gender, Security and the Armed Forces, co-director of the MINDS Network for Strategic Analysis and an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Studies at Queen's University. Her research focuses on NATO, gender and the armed forces, military interventions, and defence policy. Her new book, *Deploying Feminism: The Role of Gender in NATO Military Operations*, will be published with Oxford University Press in September later this year. Stéfanie von Hlatky is the founder of Women in International Security-Canada, the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel at the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment and the co-host of the security and defence podcast *Battle Rhythm*.

