



OTTAWA CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

— EST. 1932 —

March 7-8, 2024

Important notice: This agenda is subject to change. Please download the final version on the day of the event.

Overview

92nd ANNUAL OTTAWA CONFERENCE ON SECURITY & DEFENCE

What would it take? A majority of Canadians do not support greater investment in the military and the broader security sector, despite a clear deterioration in the state of global peace and security, with the first war of conquest breaking out in Europe since 1939, foreign assassinations on Canadian soil, wars raging in Gaza and the Sahel, and the impacts of climate change calling our forces to action more often domestically than ever before. Deliveries of equipment are late to need. Our allies are concerned about our commitment. We are left on the sidelines of global decision-making. It is hard to imagine a greater gap between the reality of threats and our general consciousness of and reaction to them.

Building on one another, they include the weaponization of artificial intelligence; a personnel shortage in public safety and military roles; a lost ability to forge political consensus around security & defence; the rise and execution of powerful global revisionism; burden sharing woes shaking the NATO alliance; and a wavering of support to Ukraine, intertwined with foreign disinformation campaigns sowing disunity and undermining our will to uphold justice and human rights.

The question cannot be simply what needs to be done but, more urgently, what can be done with the capacity we have now rather than an ideal future capacity we might never get. Given the gap between what Canada can do and what it will be called upon to do, our nation will necessarily find itself facing heart-wrenching trade-offs with life and death consequences.

Our moderators will propose conversations on how together we can flip the tide by leveraging the very forces we are up against in offsetting the risks they present. Can the pain of burden sharing among allies be offset with greater specialization and can we build the trust and interoperability so that together we fill one another's capability gaps? Knowing that climate action can serve as a powerful call to service, can we better engage younger generations into serving in the security sector workforce? How can we instrumentalize A.I. to reduce the costs of force projection? Is it better to choose the "best in class" or the "fit to purpose" when making materiel decisions? Should our future forces be maximized towards both expeditionary and domestic capabilities by design?

The challenges ahead are novel and intimidating in their compounding effect. However, they are not insurmountable, insofar as we uncover and utilise the underlying leverage at our disposal and prioritize diligently. Most importantly though, is to shape and communicate a strong wake-up call for Canadians and their political leaders.

Schedule of Events

Day 1 | March 7

07:15-8:00| Coffee Meet & Greet and Registration

08:00-08:20 | Words of Welcome

Dr. Youri Cormier, Executive Director of the CDA Institute

LGen (Ret'd) Guy Thibault, President of the Conference of Defence Associations and Chairman of the CDA Institute, Former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff

Mike Hamilton, SVP, Sales & Distribution and Marketing, RBC Insurance

08:20-09:00 | Opening Keynote

Speaker: The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence

09:00-10:00 | Panel 1

Moderator: LGen (Ret'd) Guy Thibault, President of the Conference of Defence Associations and Chairman of the CDA Institute, Former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff

Speaker: Gen. Gwyn Jenkins, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, United Kingdom
(Virtual)

Speaker: Adm. Pierre Vandier, Major General of the Defence Staff, France

10:00-10:30 | Health Break

10:30-11:40 | Panel 2: Transatlantic Security

Moderator: Kerry Buck, Former Canadian Ambassador to NATO, Board Member of the CDA Institute

Speaker: Charles Fries, Deputy Secretary General for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service

Speaker: Angus Lapsley, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning, NATO

Speaker: TBD – Global Affairs Canada

Schedule of Events

11:40-12:10 | Fireside Chat: Cyberthreats to Canada's Democratic Process

Speaker: Caroline Xavier, Chief of the Communications Security Establishment

12:10-13:25 | Lunch Break

13:25-14:00 | Fireside Chat

Moderator: Amb. Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

Speaker: Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, United Nations Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide

14:00-15:10 | Panel 3: Personnel Crisis: The Talent We Need and How to Attract It (in French, simultaneous translation in English)

Moderator: Dr. Stéphanie von Hlatky, Queen's University, CDA Institute Board Member

Speaker: Fady Dagher, Chief, Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal

Speaker: LGen Lise Bourgon, Acting Commander, Military Personnel Command, Canadian Armed Forces

Speaker: LGen Jennie Carignan, Chief Professional Conduct and Culture, Canadian Armed Forces

15:10-15:35 | Health Break

15:35-16:45 | Panel 4: Foreign Interference

Panelists to be announced shortly.

Schedule of Events

16:45-17:25 | Keynote

Speaker: General Wayne Eyre, Chief of Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces

17:25-17:45 | Captain Nichola Goddard Leadership Award Ceremony

Laureate: TBD

Presenters:

Nichola Goddard Family, Represented by Kate Goddard

General Wayne Eyre, Chief of Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces

Metro Supply Chain Group, Exclusive Sponsor

17:45-20:00 | Captain Nichola Goddard Evening Reception

Schedule of Events

Day 2 | March 8

07:15-08:00 | Morning Coffee and Networking

08:00-08:30 | Opening Keynote

Speaker: The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness

08:30-09:30 | Panel 5: Climate and Continental Emergency Preparedness

Speaker: Victoria Salinas, Deputy Administrator, FEMA, USA

Speaker: Trevor Bhupsingh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada

09:30-10:10 | Fireside Chat: Scratching at the Complexities of the Gaza/Israel War

Speaker: Dr. Uzi Arad, Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel (Virtual)

10:10-10:40 | Health Break

10:40-11:50 | Panel 7: Swings in Global Alignment: Where BRICS, CRINKS, Gaza, Ukraine, and a Second Trump Presidency Could Take Us

Moderator: Gordon Venner, Vice-Chair of the Board for the CDA Institute, Former Associate Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence

Speaker: Nataliya Bugayova, Non-Resident Fellow and Former Russia Research Team Lead, Institute for the Study of War

Speaker: Dr. Philani Mthembu, Executive Director of the Institute for Global Dialogue

Speaker: Dr. Jagganath Panda, Head of the Stockholm Centre for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy

Schedule of Events

11:50-13:20 | Lunch Break

13:20-14:00 | Fireside Chat

Speaker: The Honourable Andris Sprūds, Minister for Defence, Republic of Latvia

14:00-15:10 | Panel 8: Gain the Initiative: Sustaining Technical Innovation and Strategic Superiority in the Alliance

Moderator: VAdm. (Ret'd) Darren Hawco, Board Member of the CDA Institute

Speaker: Prof. Deeph Chana, Managing Director, NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic

Speaker: Philippe Hébert, Director General of R&D Innovation, Defence Research and Development Canada

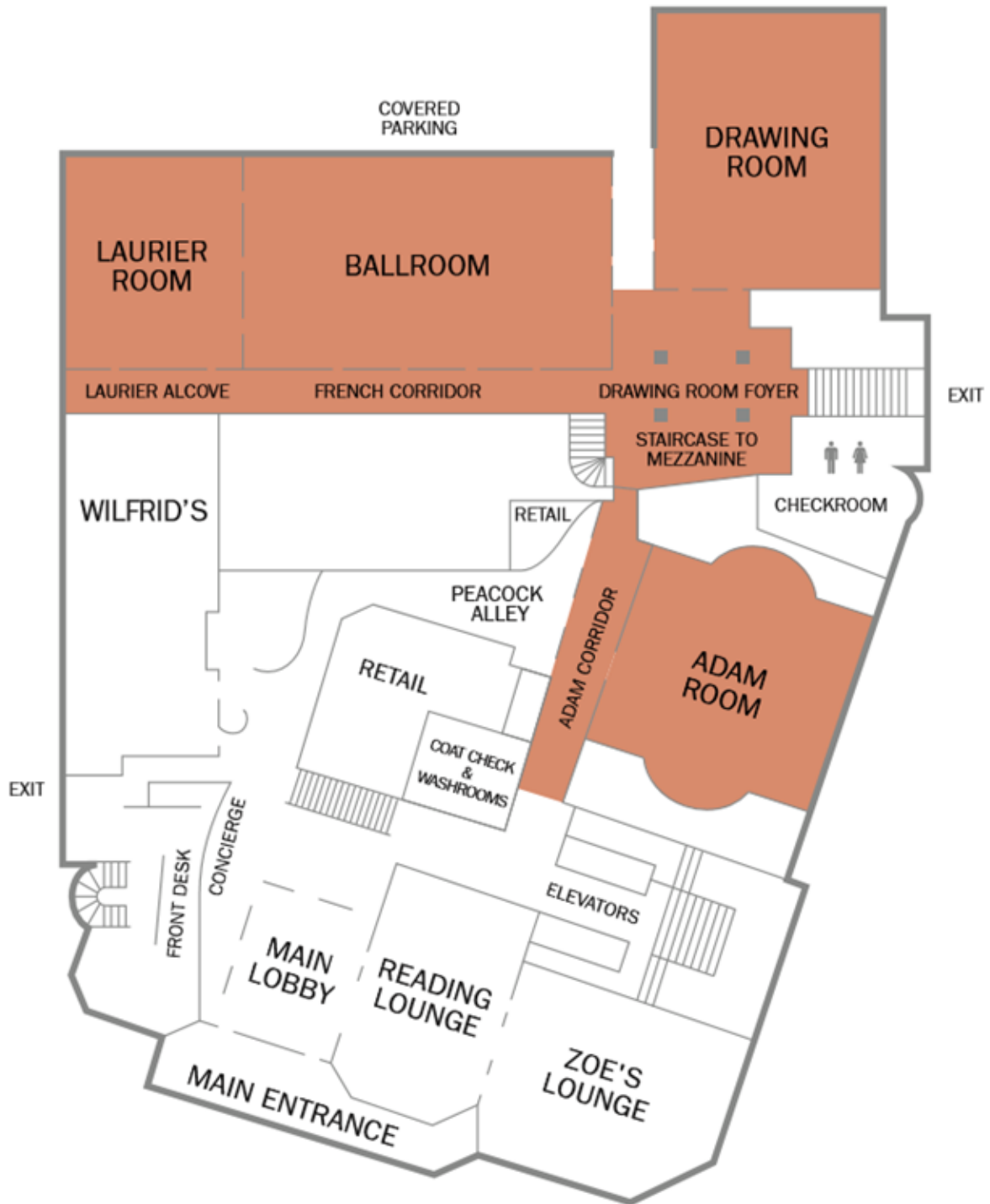
Speaker: TBD

15:10-15:15 | Closing Remarks

Dr. Youri Cormier, Executive Director of the CDA Institute

15:15 | End of Conference

Floorplan



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