



# OTTAWA CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

EST. 1932

March 7-8, 2024

OFFICIAL AGENDA

# Overview

## 92<sup>nd</sup> 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 (Retd) Guy Thibault, President of the Conference of Defence Associations and Chairman of the CDA Institute, Former Vice Chief of the Defence Staff

Mike Hamilton, Chief Distribution Officer, SVP, RBC Insurance

### 08:20-09:00 | Opening Keynote

**Moderator:** Mercedes Stephenson, Ottawa Bureau Chief and Host of The West Block, Global News

**Speaker:** The Honourable Bill Blair, MP, Minister of National Defence

### 09:00-10:00 | Panel 1: Adapting the Forces for the Current Fight and the Future

**Convener:** Col (Retd) Rick Fawcett, Vice-President, Strategy & Business Development, ADGA

**Moderator:** LGen (Retd) 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, British Armed Forces (virtual)

**Speaker:** Adm Pierre Vandier, Major General of the Defence Staff, French Armed Forces

**Speaker:** LGen Frances Allen, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces

### 10:00-10:30 | Health Break

# Schedule of Events

## **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:** Heidi Hulan, Assistant Deputy Minister for International Security (Political Director), Global Affairs Canada

## **11:40-12:15 | Fireside Chat with the Minister of Defence of Ukraine**

**Moderator:** VAdm (Retd) Bob Davidson, Former Canadian Military Representative to NATO, CDA Institute Board Member

**Speaker:** Rustem Umerov, Minister of Defence of Ukraine

## **12:15-13:45 | Lunch Break**

## **13:45-14:45 | Panel 3: Foreign Interference and Threats to Democratic Process**

**Moderator:** Robert Fife, Ottawa Bureau Chief, The Globe and Mail

**Speaker:** Chihhao Yu, Co-director of the Taiwan Information Environment Research Center

**Speaker:** Ihor Michalchyshyn, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress

**Speaker:** Marcus Kolga, President of Lief Communications, Director of DisinfoWatch, CDA Institute Fellow

# Schedule of Events

## **14:45-15:45 | Panel 4: Personnel: The Talent We Need and How to Attract It (in French, simultaneous translation in English)**

**Convener:** Karine Bibeau, Vice-President, Client Experience, Logistik Unicorp

**Moderator:** Dr. Stéfanie von Hlatky, Associate Dean of Research (Arts & Science) at 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

## **15:45-16:05 | Health Break**

## **16:05-16:45 | Fireside Chat with the Minister for Defence, Republic of Latvia**

**Moderator:** The Honourable David Pratt, Former Minister of National Defence

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

## **16:45-17:10 | Captain Nichola Goddard Leadership Award Ceremony**

**Laureate:** Master Sailor (Retd) Antoine Lavoie

### **Presenters:**

Nichola Goddard Family, Represented by Kate Goddard

Dan McCarroll, Vice President & Business Leader, Metro Supply Chain

Tim Van Holst, President - Defence Sector, Metro Supply Chain

## **17:10-17:50 | Keynote**

**Moderator:** Steven Chase, Senior Parliamentary Reporter, The Globe and Mail

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

## **17:50-20:00 | 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

**Convener:** LtCol (Retd) Dan Doran, Director, Public Sector Solutions, KPMG Canada

**Moderator:** Dr. Michel Doré, Associate Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal, National Emergency Management Advisor, Saint John Ambulance

**Speaker:** The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, MP, Minister of Emergency Preparedness

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

**Moderator:** Dr. Michel Doré, Associate Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal, National Emergency Management Advisor, Saint John Ambulance

**Speaker:** Victoria Salinas, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Administrator for Resilience, United States Federal Emergency Management Agency

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

### 09:30-10:20 | Fireside Chat: The Complexities of the Gaza/Israel War

**Moderator:** Vincent Rigby, Former National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada

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

# Schedule of Events

## **10:20-10:50 | Health Break**

## **10:50-11:50 | Panel 6: Countering Russia in Ukraine and the Arctic**

**Convener:** Lorraine Ben, CEO, Lockheed Martin Canada

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

**Speaker:** LGen Blaise Frawley, Deputy Commander, NORAD (virtual)

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

## **11:50-13:05 | Lunch Break**

## **13:05-14:05 | Panel 7: Strategic Implications: Artificial Intelligence**

**Convener:** Dom Spiers, Director, Canadian Defence & Public Sector, Dataminr

**Moderator:** BGen (Retd) Patrice Sabourin, Senior Associate, Cyber & IM/IT, Samuel Associates; Former Director General Information Capabilities Force Development, Canadian Armed Forces

**Speaker:** Dr. Branka Marijan, Senior Researcher, Project Ploughshares; Lecturer, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto (virtual)

**Speaker:** Dr. Alex Jaimes, Chief AI Officer, Dataminr; Visiting Professor at Cornell Tech

**Speaker:** Dr. Andrew Forde, Partner, Management Consulting, KPMG Canada; Adjunct Professor of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto

# Schedule of Events

## **14:05-15:10 | Panel 8: Gain the Initiative: Sustaining Technological Innovation and Strategic Superiority in the Alliance**

**Convener:** Chris Pogue, CEO, Thales Canada

**Moderator:** VAdm (Retd) Darren Hawco, Former Chief of Force Development, Canadian Armed Forces, Board Member of the CDA Institute

**Speaker:** MGen Odd-Harald Hagen, Norwegian defense attaché to USA and Canada, Former Head of Department for Defense Policy and Long-term Planning in the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence

**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

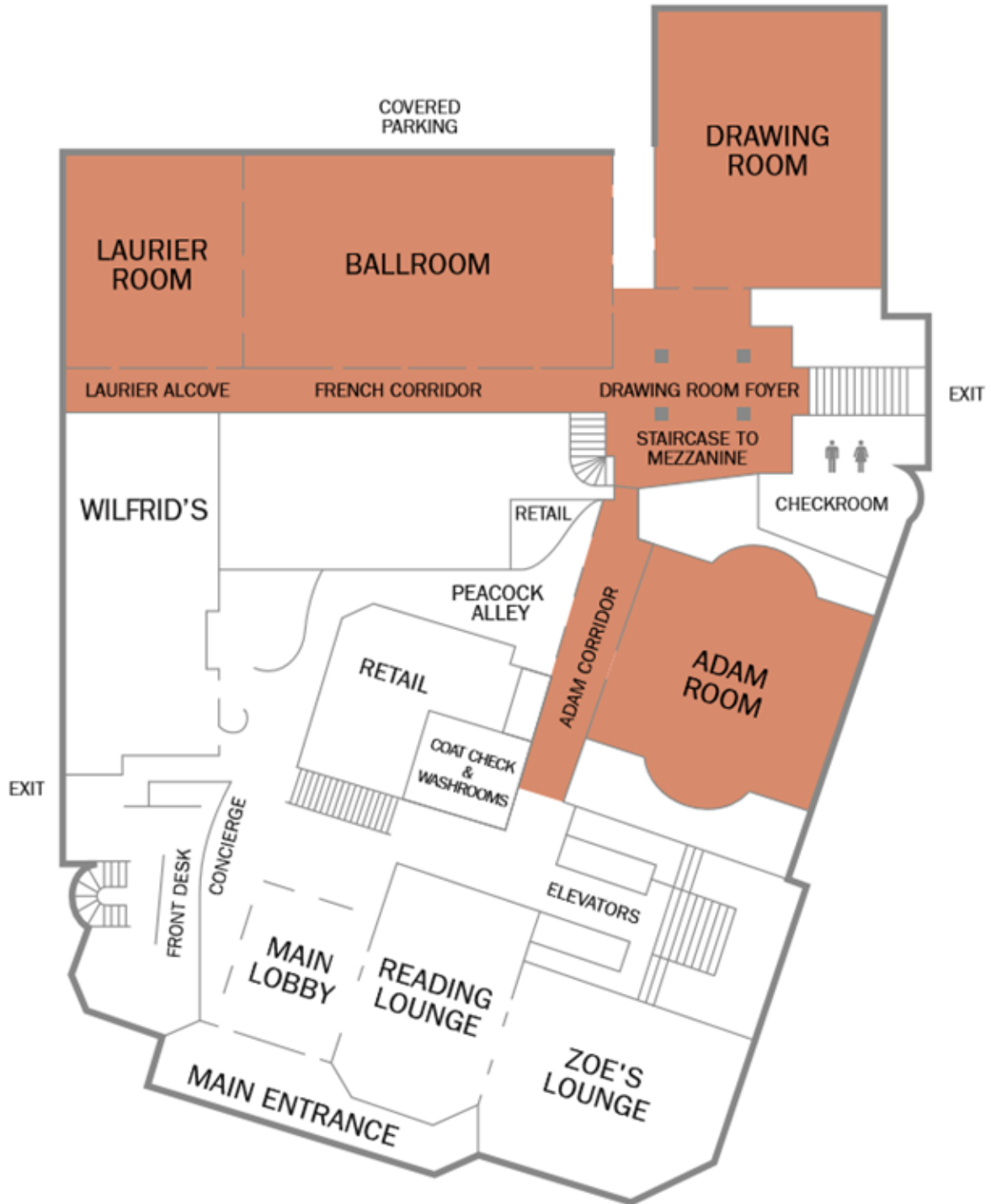
## **15:10-15:15 | Closing Remarks**

Dr. Youri Cormier, Executive Director of the CDA Institute

## **15:15 | End of Conference**



# Floorplan



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