



THE 27TH ANNUAL
GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE
MAY 6–7 2025 | KPMG OFFICE, OTTAWA

10:15 | DOORS OPEN

DAY 1 | MAY 6

10:30 | WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

10:45 | SESSION 1: FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND DISINFORMATION

10:45 | Lev Pavlenko, University of Toronto - Countering Hostile Information Operations in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Improvements

11:00 | Danika Brown, Carleton University - The Threat of Insider IT Sabotage to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)

11:15 | Aya Samaha, University of Toronto - Building Canada's Foreign HUMINT Capability: A Phased Path Toward a Standalone Canadian Foreign Intelligence Service (CFIS)

11:30 | Open Q&A

11:45 | HEALTH BREAK

12:15 | SESSION 2: CANADIAN RESILIENCE BUILDING

12:15 | Mahnan Omar and Raashi Dabola, University of British Columbia - Fortifying Canada's Military Resilience from Within

12:30 | Anthony Hou, University of Waterloo - Climate Change and Canadian National Security: Strengthening Defence Preparedness Through Mitigating Risks in Infrastructure Vulnerabilities

12:45 | Krishma Parmar, University of Toronto - A Blueprint for Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy: Strategic, Sovereign, and Innovative Development

13:00 | David Chobotov, University of Toronto - Strengthening Canada's Resilience Against Influence Operations: Global Lessons for Canada

13:15 | Open Q&A

13:30 | JUDGES' DELIBERATION

13:50 | LUNCH



14:30 | SESSION 3: TECHNOLOGY

14:30 | Fabrice Blais-Savoie, University of Waterloo - Algorithmic Intelligence: A Solution to Canada's Population Constraints

14:45 | Daria Bielik, University of Toronto - The Achilles' Heel of Canadian Defence: The Drone Gap

15:00 | Sarah Afiane, University of Toronto - Cyber Resilience as National Security: A Framework to Strengthen Canada's Critical Infrastructure

15:15 | Alya Alhalabi, Algonquin College - Shifting the Paradigm: Integrating Predictive Analytics and UAV Technology for Proactive Emergency Preparedness in Canada

15:30 | Jacob Tuckey, University of Waterloo - Dual-Use Growth: Overcoming Capacity Constraints in Canadian Defence

15:45 | Open Q&A

16:00 | HEALTH BREAK

16:15 | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Moderator | Lisa MacLeod, Former Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

Panelist | Major-General J.R. Speiser-Blanchet, Deputy Commander Royal Canadian Air Force

Panelist | Renée Filiatrault, Advisor to Canada's Minister of National Defence

16:45 | Open Q&A

17:00–19:00 | RECEPTION

Hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please bring your identification.

10:15 | DOORS OPEN

DAY 2 | MAY 7

10:30 | Session 4: MARITIME AND THE ARCTIC

10:30 | Hannah Christensen, Carleton University - Deep Trouble: Protecting Canada's Critical Undersea Infrastructure

10:45 | Pauline Springer, Tallin University, Estonia - China: The Neo-Coloniser in the Canadian Arctic

11:00 | Open Q&A

11:15 | HEALTH BREAK



11:45 | JUDGES' DELIBERATION / HEALTH BREAK

12: 00 | AWARD CEREMONY & CLOSING REMARKS

Joseph Varner, Deputy Director, Conference of Defence Associations

12:20 | END OF CONFERENCE



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