



**THE 27TH ANNUAL
GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE**

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL (RET'D) WALTER SEMIANIW
Former Chief of Military Personnel and Former Commander Canada
Command

Lieutenant-General Semianiw served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 32 years, enrolling in the infantry in 1982. He subsequently was employed in various command and staff appointments both nationally and internationally. He led the Canadian mission to Afghanistan in 2005 as the Commander and then served as the Chief of Military Personnel for the Canadian Armed Forces during much of the War in Afghanistan. Lieutenant-General Semianiw then became the Commander of Canada Command where he worked closely with his counterpart from the United States, the Commander of Northern Command, and was responsible for Canada's Arctic, military relations with Caribbean and South American militaries, which included fighting the Drug War, and domestic operations across Canada. He was finally seconded to the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Assistant Deputy Minister Policy, Communications and Commemoration until his retirement from the military. Since his retirement, Lieutenant-General Semianiw spends most of his time supporting homeless and at-risk Veterans across Ottawa through various programs, and as the City of Ottawa Co-Chair for the Built for Zero Homeless Veterans Program. He assists Veterans who are back at school transitioning from the military following their service to Canada as an advisor to the Summit2 Education consortium. He also sits as a director on a number of boards, as a member of the CAF/DND Ombudsman's Advisory Council and as a mentor for the CDA Institute student program. Lieutenant-General Semianiw has appeared before various Parliamentary Committees on a wide variety of defence and security issues.