



OTTAWA CONFERENCE
ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE
EST. 1932

MARCH 4-5, 2026

PETER JW SAUNDERS

Director General Integrated Air and Missile Defence

[Royal Canadian Air Force](#)

Mr Saunders enrolled in the Canadian Forces 23 March 1990. Over the span of his somewhat atypical and discontinuous career, Mr Saunders enjoyed operational postings flying and instructing on his beloved Sea King Helicopters at 443 (MH) Sqn in Pat Bay, British Columbia; 423 (MH) Sqn, and 12 Wing Operations in Shearwater, Nova Scotia; culminating in Command of 406 (M) OTS. Throughout this period, he served in HMCS Annapolis, HMCS Iroquois, HMCS Fredericton and HMCS Toronto and deployed throughout the Middle East.



Staff postings include two stints in the Career Management shop, the last being a two-year sojourn as DMilC4; responsible for guiding, managing and, at times, cajoling some 300 high-maintenance LColS and overseeing the management of almost 10,000 other members of the RCAF. He also spent three years on a self-imposed educational posting (yes, self-posted) to the Chief of Programme office learning the corporate side of the Department of National Defence. From 2017-2023, Mr Saunders ensconced himself in the warm embrace of the Air Staff responsible for the management and development of a number of contracted aircrew training solutions for the RCAF. Since retiring from the RCAF and the simplicity of precisely numbered orders of dress and a subsequent transfer to the Department of National Defence, Mr Saunders has retained oversight of RCAF contracted training programs, leads the RCAF component of



OTTAWA CONFERENCE
ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE
EST. 1932

MARCH 4-5, 2026

NORAD modernization and has assumed overall responsibility for the new Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defence office.

Mr Saunders is a graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Forces College and the Senior Course at the NATO Defence College. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Acadia University, a Certificate in Adult Education from Dalhousie University, a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Heriot Watt University and a Master's Degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.