

March 4 - 5

2026

OTTAWA CONFERENCE
THE ROAD
TO
FIVE
PERCENT
2026

Chateau Laurier

OTTAWA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

Day 1: National Security & Foreign Affairs

TIME	SESSIONS	SPEAKERS
7:15 - 8:00	Registration and Coffee	
8:00 - 8:20	Welcome Remarks	<p>Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché Executive Director, CDA & CDA Institute</p> <p>General (Ret'd) Tom Lawson Chairman, CDA Institute</p> <p>Mr. Mike Hamilton SVP & Chief Distribution Officer, RBC Insurance</p>
8:20 - 9:00	Opening Keynote The Honorable Anita Anand Minister of Foreign Affairs	<p>Convener: Mr. Mike Hamilton SVP & Chief Distribution Officer, RBC Insurance</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Jill E. Sinclair</p>
9:00 - 10:00	Roundtable 1 Beyond the Horizon: Threats to Canada's National Security and Defense	<p>Convener: Ms. Leigh Harris Lead Partner, Federal Government, KPMG Canada</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Leah West Associate Professor, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs</p> <p>Participants: Ms. Nicole Giles Deputy Director and Senior ADM, Policy and Strategic Partnerships Canadian Security Intelligence Service</p> <p>Mr. Sami Khoury Government of Canada Senior Official for Cyber Security, Communications Security Establishment Canada</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Health Break	
10:30 - 11:30	Roundtable 2 Lessons for Canada: What Does a Whole-of-Society Approach to Defence Look Like?	<p>Convener: Mr. Oliver Burkhard CEO, TKMS</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Joakim Berndtsson Professor, University of Gothenburg</p> <p>Participants: Mr. Johan Berggren State Secretary to Minister for Civil Defence, Swedish Ministry of Defence</p> <p>Ambassador Audra Plepyté Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p>Lieutenant-Colonel Annukka Ylivaara Assistant Secretary General, Finnish Security Committee</p>
11:30 - 12:30	Roundtable 3 Forging Strategic Partnerships: Canada and the Indo-Pacific	<p>Convener: Mr. Marc Bigaouette Director, Canadian Government Programs, Bell Textron Canada</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Vincent Rigby Board Member, CDA Institute</p> <p>Participants: Ms. Kyoko Kuwahara Research Fellow, The Japan Institute of International Affairs</p> <p>Mr. David McKinnon Senior Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada</p> <p>Mr. Jonathan Berkshire Miller Co-Founder and Principal, Pendulum Geopolitical Advisory</p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 14:30	Fireside Chat Dr. Thomas Juneau Full Professor of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa <p>Mr. Gordon Venner Former Associate Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence</p>	Convener and Moderator: Dr. Sarah-Myriam Martin Brûlé Professor, Department of Politics and International Studies, Bishop's University
14:30 - 15:30	Roundtable 4 Mobilizing the Canadian Armed Forces: Recruitment, Retention, and Strategic Reserve Development	<p>Convener: Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Jean-Marc Lanthier CEO, ADGA</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Stéfanie von Hlatky Full Professor of Political Studies, Queen's University</p> <p>Participants: Dr. Vincent Connelly Professor of Psychology, Oxford Brookes University Defence and Security Centre</p> <p>Ms. Charlotte Duval-Lantoine Vice-President, Ottawa Operations, Canadian Global Affairs Institute (CGAI)</p> <p>Major-General J.J. Major Chief of Staff Plans, Policy, and Modernization</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Health Break	
16:00 - 17:00	Roundtable 5 The Future of NATO	<p>Convener: Ms. Cara Salci Vice President, Growth, Industry & Corporate Affairs, Thales Canada</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Gordon Venner Former Associate Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence</p> <p>Participants: Ambassador Tjorven Bellmann German Ambassador to Canada</p> <p>Mr. Jens Plötner State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany</p> <p>Ambassador Matthew G. Whitaker United States' Ambassador to NATO</p>
17:00 - 17:20	Captain Nichola Goddard Leadership Award Ceremony	
17:20 - 20:00	Captain Nichola Goddard Evening Reception	



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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

Day 2: National Defence & The Canadian Armed Forces

TIME	EVENT	SUGGESTED PANELISTS
7:15 - 8:00	Coffee	
8:00 - 8:20	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché Executive Director, CDA & CDA Institute Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Guy Thibault President, Conference of Defence Associations
8:20 - 9:00	Fireside Chat The Honourable Stephen Fuhr Secretary of State (Defence Procurement)	Moderator: Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Guy Thibault President, Conference of Defence Associations
9:00 - 10:00	Roundtable 6 Defence investments: Perspectives from CAF Commanders	Convener: Mr. Thomas Keupp Executive Vice-President, TKMS Moderator: General (Ret'd) Tom Lawson Chairman, CDA Institute Participants: Lieutenant-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force Vice-Admiral Angus Topshee Commander, Royal Canadian Navy Lieutenant-General Michael C. Wright Commander, Canadian Army
10:00 - 10:30	Health Break	
10:30 - 11:30	Roundtable 7 Allied Land Forces at the Forefront: Deterrence, Readiness, and Modernization	Convener: Ms. Karine Bibeau Vice-President Client Experience, Logistik Unicorp Moderator: Dr. Alexander Lanoszka Associate Professor, University of Waterloo Participants: Major-General Peter Harling Boysen Commander, Danish Army Major-General Jonny Lindfors Commander, Swedish Army Lieutenant-General Michael C. Wright Commander, Canadian Army
11:30 - 12:30	Roundtable 8 Defending Canada and North America from Crisis to Conflict	Convener: Major-General (Ret'd) Sylvain Ménard Country Director Canada, Raytheon Moderator: Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Frances Allen Board Member, CDA Institute Participants: Lieutenant-General J. M. Steve Boivin Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command Dr. Andrea Charron Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, University of Manitoba Lieutenant-General Iain Huddleston Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:00	Roundtable 9 Playing to our Strengths: Innovation and Sovereign Capabilities in Canada's Defence Future	Convener: Ms. Kristen Leroux Vice-President & Regional Executive for Canada, Lockheed Martin Moderator: Dr. Duncan Stewart Special Executive Advisor Innovation, Canadian Joint Forces Command Participants: Mr. Eliot Pence CEO & Founder, Dominion Dynamics Mr. Ivan Zhang Co-Founder, Cohere Mr. Oleg Rogynskyy CEO, UFORCE Dame Fiona E. Murray Co-Chair, NATO Innovation Fund
15:00 - 16:00	Roundtable 10 Forces Integration and Pan-Domain Operations	Convener: Mr. Brent Lindsay Director, Public Sector Canada, Dataminr Moderator: Major-General (Ret'd) Michel Lalumière Vice-President Air and Space, CDA Participants: Major-General Steve Hunter Commander, Canadian Special Operations Forces Command Lieutenant-General Darcy Molstad Commander, Canadian Joint Forces Command Dr. Benjamin Tallis Head of Thought Leadership, Helsing
16:00 - 16:15	Health Break	
16:15 - 17:00	Closing Keynote General Jennie Carignan Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces	Moderator: General (Ret'd) Tom Lawson Chairman, CDA Institute
17:00 - 17:15	Closing Remarks	Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché Executive Director, CDA & CDA Institute

