

THE 28TH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

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Executive Director

[CDA Institute & Conference of Defence Associations](#)

Dr Gaëlle Rivard Piché is the Executive Director of the Conference of the Defence Associations (CDA) and the CDA Institute. With a doctoral degree in international affairs (Carleton University, 2017) and over a decade of professional experience in the Canadian defence and security sector, she combines operational expertise, strategic leadership, and extensive research experience.

Prior to CDAI, Gaëlle was a strategic analyst with Defence Research and Development Canada where she closely worked with the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs. She is an affiliated expert with the European Center of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and was a Fulbright research fellow in the International Security Program at the Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (2014-2015).



Strong of her expertise on Arctic security and defence, hybrid threats, deterrence theory and practice, and Latin American and Caribbean security issues, Gaëlle has published in the Texas National Security Review, the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs, the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, International Journal, and Études internationales. She co-authored two books: SOF in the Defence of the Canadian and North American Arctic (with Nancy Teeple and Bradley Sylvestre, forthcoming) and the Newport Manual on Arctic Security (with Walter Berbrick and Michael Zimmerman, 2022).

Gaëlle also supports the education and professional development of military members and national security personnel as a lecturer at the Canadian Forces College and a training consultant with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Dedicated to fostering diversity in defence and national security, she was previously the co-chair of the Defense Women's Advisory Organization's U.S. chapter and Women in International Security – Canada.