

**THE 28TH ANNUAL**

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The Road to 5%: Next Generation**MAY 7, 2026****8:40 | DOORS OPEN****9:10 | WORDS OF WELCOME****9:15 | PANEL 1: CANADA'S PLACE AT HOME AND ABROAD**

9:15 | Clare McKendry, University of Waterloo, "Credibility Through Capability: Canada's Defence Ambitions and Limitations in the Indo-Pacific"

9:25 | Sasha Mathieu, University of Calgary, "Threats from Below the Surface: What Canada can Learn About Critical Undersea Infrastructure from the Baltic Sea and Taiwan Strait"

9:35 | Fatim Diagne, University of Ottawa, "La souveraineté analytique du Canada dans la modernisation du NORAD: gouvernance des systèmes d'IA alliés"

9:45 | Jacob Tuckey, Balsillie School of International Affairs, "Mobilizing the Market: Making SAFE Work for Canada"

9:55 | Open Q&A**10:15 | HEALTH BREAK****10:30 | PANEL 2: DEFENCE INDUSTRY, CRITICAL MINERALS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

10:30 | Sophia Garofalo, Georgetown University, "Innovation to Impact: Re-Engineering Canada's Defence Procurement Pipeline"

10:40 | Wesley Nicol, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, "A Critical Minerals Superpower?"

10:50 | Farhad Khosrojerdi, Balsillie School of International Affairs, "Strategic Stockpiling for National Resilience"

11:00 | Brian Wu, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, "The Missing Link: Addressing the Rare Earths Gap in Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy"

11:10 | Open Q&A**11:30 | JUDGES' DELIBERATION****12:00 | LUNCH**



13:30 | PANEL 3: BUILDING A STRONG DEFENCE COMMUNITY

13:30 | Christopher Merrick, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, "Building on Existing Policies to Develop a Distinct Whose of Society Approach"

13:40 | Cindy Cruz, Queen's University, "Canadian Military Perspectives and Institutional Challenges towards the WPS Agenda"

13:50 | Ashley Berthiaume and Alyssa Minchillo, University of Ottawa, "A Neglected Force: Strategic Culture and Canada's Military Recruitment Decline"

14:00 | Blair Maddock-Ferrie, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, "Autism as a Force Multiplier in the Age of AI"

14:10 | Open Q&A

14:30 | HEALTH BREAK

14:40 | PANEL 4: REIMAGINING ARCTIC DEFENCE

14:40 | Adèle Sagnard, University of Montreal, "Two Fronts, One Climate Security Challenge: Rethinking Canadian Strategy from the Arctic to Fragile States"

14:50 | McKenna Eve York, University of Ottawa, "Reimagining Canada's Arctic Defence Policy Through Inuit Partnership"

15:00 | Soha Sarfraz, Western University, "The Commercial Reconstitution Gap: Restoration Lag in Canada's North"

15:10 | Erika Fernandez, Carleton University, "Strengthening NORAD in the Arctic: The Strategic Role of Nuclear Infrastructure"

15:20 | Open Q&A

15:40 | JUDGES' DELIBERATION / HEALTH BREAK

16:00 | KEYNOTE & CLOSING REMARKS

TBC.

17:00-19:00 | AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION

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

19:00 | END OF CONFERENCE



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