



Finland's choice to apply for NATO membership

Carleton University

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H.E. Roy Eriksson, Ambassador of
Finland to Canada



**Population
5,5 million**

**1343,6 km
common
border with
Russia**

**Independent
since
6.12.1917**

**UN member
1955**



Finland during and after the Cold War

Soviet Union attacks
Finland in
November 1939:
"The Winter War".
Peace treaty
March 1940,
10% of Finnish land
seceded to Soviets.

1941, "The
Continuation
War" started,
lasting until
1944. More
land to be
seceded and
huge war
retribution to
be paid.

Declaration of
friendship, co-
operation and
mutual
assistance
1948. Finland
declared the
intent to stay
out of all big
power
struggles.

Finland takes
steps towards
western
economics:

1961 EFTA

1973 Free trade
agreement with
European
Economic
Community

1995 Member
of European
Union



The road towards the decision to apply to NATO

Russian unprovoked military attack on Ukraine Feb 24 2022 shocked the world and it was suddenly clear that Russia is not following international laws.

Already early March 2022 opinion polls showed that 62% of Finns supported the idea of joining NATO.

First action was taken April 13 2022, the government approached the parliament with reviewed security policy.

After discussions, the second notice was given May 15 with stated arguments for joining the Alliance. The debate in the parliament was short and 188 members out of 200 voted for joining NATO.

The President of Finland signed the proposal to seek a membership of NATO on May 17, less than three months since Russia attacked Ukraine. Finland handed over the membership application to NATO on May 18.



Relations between Finland and NATO

"NATO Option" has been a Finnish approach since the Cold War – keeping the possibility open while staying non-allied.

An active Partnership programme started 1994 – Partnership for peace initiative.

Finland has participated in NATO-led missions in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq.

After Russian actions in Crimea 2014, Finland and Sweden have participated in 30+2 co-operations in NATO.

NATO summit accepted the applications of Finland and Sweden in June 2022.



Finland's membership will strengthen NATO on multiple fronts

The Armed Forces of Finland is one of the strongest in Europe. Finland has more artillery than any other European country.

650 tanks.
Wartime troops 280,000 with reserve of 900,000 men and women.

In process of acquiring 64 F-35 fighter jets.

Modernization of Navy.

In a poll last year 83 % of the respondents answered, they were ready to defend their country, even if the outcome was uncertain.

Finland will bring to the Alliance knowledge on how to counter hybrid threats, knowledge of cyber defense, as well as other emerging technologies.



What next?

Last NATO
ratifications to be
concluded by
Hungary and
Türkiye.

The future
command and
control system
of NATO?

NATO troops or
bases in Finland?



Thank you!
Time for questions.