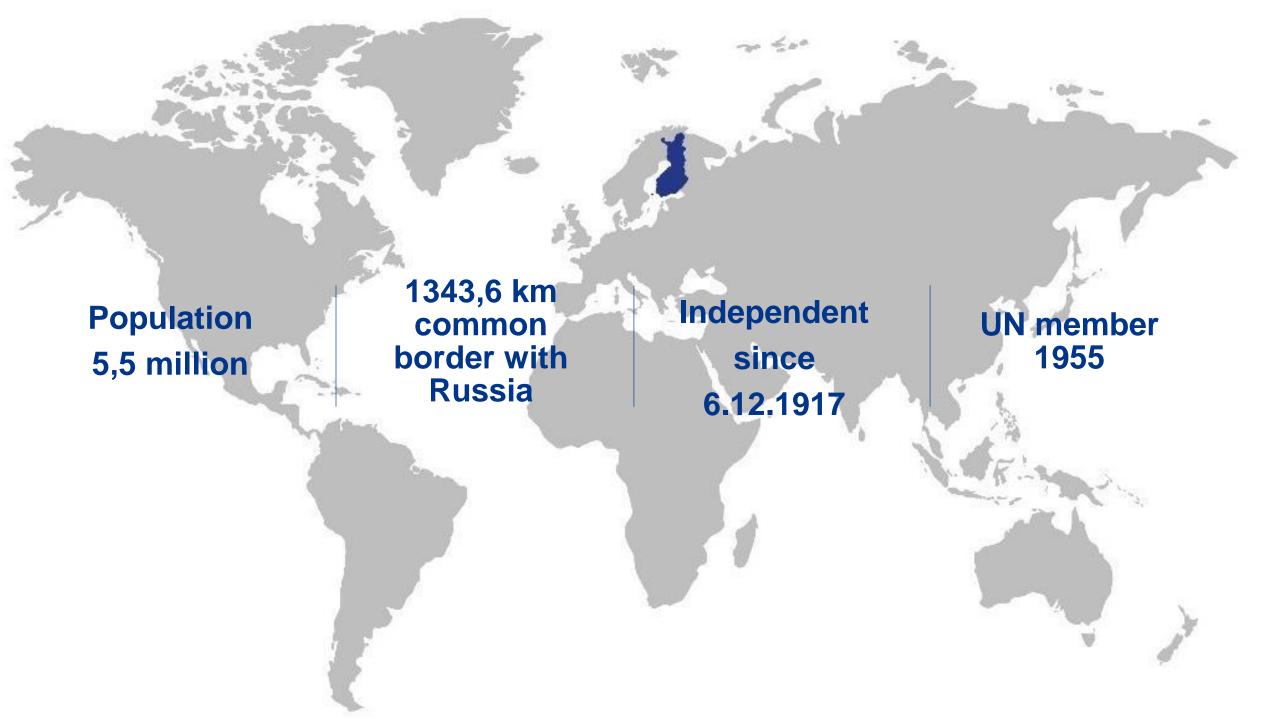


Finland's choice to apply for NATO membership

Carleton University

Feb 16, 2023

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





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 The President The Presid

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 nonallied.

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 cooperations 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.

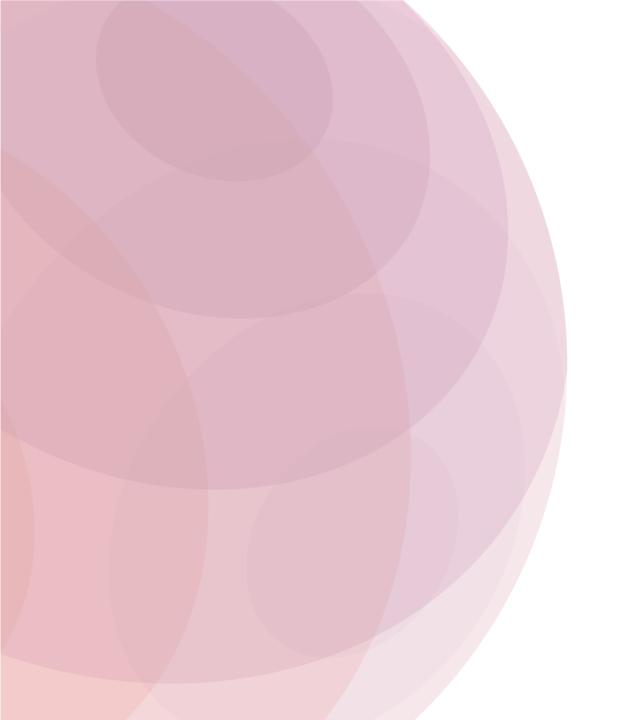


What next?

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.