CONFERENCE PROGRAMME · TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2026

The Nordic-Baltic Security Nexus

Implications for Canada

WHEN	WHERE	FORMAT
10 November 2026	**Dunton Tower 2017**	**In person & hybrid**
0830 – 16:00	Carleton University, Ottawa	Presented by EETN and NAADSN

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The increasingly cooperative nature of the Nordics and Baltics signifies the strategic significance of the region to NATO alliance-wide defence and deterrence. A complex threat environment, including hybrid or "grey-zone" activity being deployed by adversaries at scale, and evolving geopolitics, are rapidly changing the European continental security environment. At the same time, NATO is strengthening cooperative mechanisms at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels to bolster the alliance's ability to deter, detect, deny, and defend alliance territory.

In tandem with growing recognition of institutions such as the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), Canada contributes over 3,000 Canadian Armed Forces members to Operation REASSURANCE through 2028 and continues to lead NATO Multinational Brigade Latvia — "reinforcing Canada's collective defence, strengthening co-operative security, and keeping NATO strong at a time of rapid global change." Canada continues to enhance efforts in the Nordics and Baltics, such as its commitment as a Co-Framework Nation for Multinational Division-North (alongside Denmark and Latvia) to contribute to presence, deterrence, and stability in the Baltic Sea; or intensified strategic cooperation with Norway on Arctic security and Ukraine.

Questions this conference will explore

01 What lessons can be drawn from Canada's engagements in Ukraine, Eastern and Northern Europe, and the Arctic to inform broader strategic posture and readiness?

02 In what areas could leadership and collaboration with non-Arctic states be pursued to advance Canada's priorities in the region?

03 Beyond NATO, what role could other multilateral fora play regarding defence and security in the Nordic and Baltic regions?

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

0830 – 0900 — Registration and coffee / tea

0900 – 0910

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Jeff Sahadeo · Co-Director, EETN; Professor, The Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University

Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer · Lead, NAADSN; Canada Research Chair in the Study of the Canadian North (Tier 1) and Professor, School for the Study of Canada, Trent University

Mr. Jacob Abella, Director General, Defence Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of National Defence

0910 – 0950

Opening Keynote

Ms. Camilla Unsgaard · Head of International Programme, Centre for Societal Security, Swedish Defence University

Question and answer session moderated by Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer

0950 – 1100

PANEL 1

Evolving Threat Environment

Dr. Paal Sigurd Hilde · Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies
"Perspectives from Norway"

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson · Fellow, Montreal Institute for Global Security
"*What the Nordic-Baltic Front Line Is Preparing For, and Why Canadians Need to Understand It"*

Dr. Elīna Vrobļevska · Lecturer, Rīga Stradiņš University
"Reaping what was sown: the case of FIMI in Latvia and why the next Russian challenge is already here"

Dr. Jeff Sahadeo · Professor, Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University
"Canada and NATO in Latvia: Are We Ready to "Fight Tonight?"

Moderator: **Dr. Crina Viju-Miljusevic** · Associate Professor, The Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University

1100 – 1110 — Coffee and networking break

1110 – 1220

PANEL 2

Arctic-Baltic Nexus

Ms. Cordelia Buchanan Ponczek · Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs
"From Localised War Economy to EU and Allied Responses: Finland and the Nordic Approach to Preparedness"

Dr. Andreas Raspotnik · Director, High North Center for Business and Governance, Nord University, *"The EU and the Arctic: Europe's Northern Neighbourhood"*

Mr. Erdem Lamazhapov, PhD Research Fellow, Fridtjof Nansen Institute
"Arctic Shipping: Consequences for the Baltics"

Dr. Phillip Hughes, Director, DNATO

Moderator: **Dr. Ryan Dean** · Assistant Professor, Dallaire Centre of Excellence for Peace and Security, Canadian Defence Academy

PROGRAMME · AFTERNOON

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

1220 – 1330	Lunch
1330 – 1430	PANEL 3 · TURNING THE TABLES: EMERGING LEADERS' FORUM **Canada and the Nordic-Baltic Region: Connections and Common Ground** **Kohar Bahaban** · Carleton University, EETN *"From REASSURANCE to Resilience: Strengthening Canada's Defence Procurement through the CAF-led Multinational Brigade in Latvia"* **Zach Zimmermann** · Research Fellow, Trent University, NAADSN *"Total Defence in the Circumpolar North: Nordic Lessons for Canada"* **Lindsay Speirs** · Research Fellow, NAADSN, University of Manitoba *"Middle Powers in the Arctic: Canada and the Nordic-Baltic States in an Era of Great Power Competition"* **Vladimir Gorodkov** · Carleton University, EETN *"Digital Transformation and NATO Deterrence: Comparing Canada and Finland's Approaches"* Moderator: **Dr. Paul Goode** · Professor and McMillan Chair in Russian Studies, The Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University
1430 – 1445	Coffee and networking break
1445 – 1545	PANEL 4 · TURNING THE TABLES: EMERGING LEADERS' FORUM **Regional and Local Perspectives on Defence and Security** **Anna Robinson** · Carleton University, EETN *"The Russian-Speaking Minority Population in Latvia: Language Policy, Citizenship, and Political Leverages"* **André Moreau** · Research Fellow, NAADSN; Trent University; University of Akureyri *"Relational Approaches to Arctic Security"* **Samuel Pallaq Huyer** · Research Fellow, NAADSN, Trent University *"Indigenous Leadership: How Local Communities Perceive Arctic Security and Defence"* **Adaire Green** · Carleton University, EETN *"Contested Waters: Baltic Sea Security and Implications for NATO and Canada"* Moderator: **Dr. Kari Roberts** · Professor, Mount Royal University; NAADSN Co-Lead
1545 – 1600	**Closing Remarks and Final Reflections** EETN and NAADSN

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