



Canadian Seapower 2026

Conference Program

[DRAFT, Subject to Change]

Over the past several years global maritime competition has accelerated exponentially while Canada's local challenges have only grown more complex. The Navy and Coast Guard now face an operating environment where conflict is no longer a worst-case scenario, but an evolving reality.

Canada therefore stands at an inflection point. It must undertake a generational recapitalization to become a credible instrument of deterrence, presence, and warfighting. The stakes surrounding this transformation are profound and critical decisions lie ahead on force structure, equipment, recruitment, and operational doctrine. This conference aims to support this effort by bringing together serving officers, policymakers, and academics to assess Canada's readiness for conflict and help it to chart the course ahead.

Day One (October 15)

Location: MacEwan Ballroom, University of Calgary

7:30 - 8:20

Registration & Coffee

8:20-8:25 | Bill Ghali, University of Calgary VP Research

8:30 - 8:45

Opening Remarks | Dr. Adam Lajeunesse & Dr. Rob Huebert

8:50 - 9:30

Opening Keynote | TBD

RArm Jason Armstrong, Chief of Naval Capabilities

9:35-10:15

Opening Keynote II | The Coast Guard and National Security

Neil O'Rourke, Canadian Coast Guard Director General

10:15 - 10:35 | Coffee Break

10:35-11:15

Introducing Canada's New Naval Strategy

Capt(N) Rob Watt, Director of Naval Strategy

11:20-12:00

TBD

RAdm David Patchell, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific

12:00 - 1:00 | Lunch

1:00-1:30

TBD

Defense Investment Agency TBD

1:35 - 2:05

Panel 1 | Warfighting

Moderator: Rob Huebert

Panelists:

- a. Capt(N) Gord Noseworthy, Deputy Commander Canadian Fleet Atlantic
- b. VAdm [Ret'd] Marc Norman, Former Commander Royal Canadian Navy
- c. Dr. Rob Huebert, Professor, University of Calgary

2:10 - 3:10

Panel 2 | Submarines

Moderator: Kate Todd

Panelists:

- a. Capt(N) [Ret'd] Norman Jolin, CFN Consultants
- b. Joachim Schönfeld, Key Account Manager CPSP
- c. RAdm Christopher Robinson, Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff

3:10 - 3:30 | Coffee Break

3:30 - 4:30

Panel 3 | New Global Threat Dynamics

Moderator: Dr. Kristen Csenkey

Panelists:

- a. Suzanne Lalonde, Professor, Université de Montréal
- b. Paul Chamberlain, Former Policy Advisor to the Commander of the RCN
- c. Richard Gimblett, Former Command Historian of the Royal Canadian Navy

4:35 – 4:50 | End of Day Comments

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse and Dr. Rob Huebert

7:00 – 9 :00 | Banquet Dinner [seperate ticket]

Dinner Talk | Dr. Marc Milner

Day Two (October 16)

Location: MacEwan Ballroom, University of Calgary

7:45

Doors Open / Coffee

8:45 - 9:15 | Day Two Opening

RAdm Christopher Robinson, Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff

9:20 - 9:50

Overview: | TBD

Derek Moss, Canadian Coast Guard Assistant Commissioner

9:50 – 10:10 | Coffee Break

10:10 - 11:10

Panel 4 | Autonomous Futures

Moderator: Richard Schimooka

Panelists:

- a. TBD
- b. Melanie Devaux, Business Development Manager, Defence, Cellula Robotics
- c. Kate Todd, CMSN Fellow

11:15 – 12:15

Panel 5 | Procurement

Moderator: Dr. Kristen Csenkey

Panelists:

- a. Richard Schimooka, Senior Fellow Macdonald-Laurier Institute
- b. Dr. Dave Perry, President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute
- c. Simon Hughes, International Strategy & Business Development, Lockheed Martin

12:15 – 1:30 | Lunch

1:30 - 2:30

Panel 6 | Shipbuilding

Moderator:

Panelists:

- a. James Bond, Director, Icebreaker Centre of Excellence, Davie
- b. be Anton Stefani, Director of Business Development, Seaspan
- c. Dr. Rob Huebert, Professor, University of Calgary

2:35 – 3:35

Panel 7 | Future Technologies

Moderator:

Panelists:

- a. RAdm [Ret'd] Brian Santarpia, former Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic
- b. Kristen Csenkey, Postdoctoral Fellow, StFX
- d. TBD

3:35-3:50 | Coffee Break

3:50 - 5:00

Panel 8 | Arctic Security

Moderator: Dr. Rob Huebert

Panelists:

- a. Dr. Adam Lajeunesse, Associate Professor, StFX
- b. Dr. Sergey Sukhankin, Assistant Lecturer, University of Alberta
- c. Dr. Marc Lanteigne, Professor, UiT: The Arctic University of Norway
- d. Steve Thompson, CCG Superintendent, Maritime SAR, Arctic Region

5:00 - 5:15 | Closing Remarks

Drs. Adam Lajeunesse & Rob Huebert



Speakers

This conference will bring together academics, experts, and serving and retired naval and coast guard personnel to examine the emerging maritime security threats facing Canada and offer ideas for a path forward.

Draft and Subject to Change

Rear-Admiral Christopher Robinson



Rear-Admiral Christopher Robinson began his military career as an Army Reserve Combat Engineer before transferring to the Regular Force as a Naval Warfare Officer. A career submariner, he is a graduate of the Royal Norwegian Navy's Submarine Command Course (aka Perisher), the US Navy Submarine Command Course, and the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Executive Officer Course. He commanded HMCS Corner Brook and has held command at the group, squadron, fleet, and formation levels, accumulating more than 1,500 days at sea. While serving as Commander Maritime Forces Pacific & Joint Task Force Pacific, he was concurrently deployed as Deputy Commander of the RIMPAC 2022 Combined Task Force. He has served three tours on the Naval Staff in Ottawa, culminating as Director General Naval Force Development. He assumed the appointment of Deputy Vice Chief of the Defence Staff in 2025.

Rear-Admiral David Patchell



Rear-Admiral David Patchell began his naval career in 1993 as an Ordinary Seaman with HMCS *Carleton*. Trained as a Surface Warfare Officer, his early operational sea tours with the Pacific Fleet included service aboard HMCS *Huron*, HMCS *Algonquin*, and HMCS *Vancouver*, where he deployed as an Air Controller during Operation APOLLO. With the Atlantic Fleet, he served as Operations Officer on board HMCS *Halifax* and HMCS *St. John's*, and with Sea Training. He later was Executive Officer of HMCS *Athabaskan* and HMCS *Iroquois*, and he commanded HMCS *Toronto* during a deployment to the Middle East. His shore tours have included Squadron Commander at the Royal Military College, Chief of Staff to the Base Commander of CFB Halifax, Deputy Director of Naval Force Readiness in Halifax, Director Naval Strategic Management at National Defence Headquarters, and Director General Naval Strategic Readiness. Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 2022, he was appointed as Vice-Commander of the U.S. Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia, and he assumed command of Maritime Forces Pacific and Joint Task Force Pacific in August 2025.



Rear-Admiral Jason Armstrong

A son of a multi-generational military family, Jason Armstrong grew up on bases throughout Canada, but calls Sault Ste-Marie his home. He joined the CAF as a Maritime Surface Officer in 1989 and graduated from RMC with a BA in History in 1993. Upon completion of Naval Warfare Officer training in 1994, he joined the Pacific Fleet. Since then, he has served onboard ships on both coasts conducting several international deployments including WESTPLOY, NATO, Op AUGMENTATION, and Op ALTAIR. He has commanded three ships during his command tour and deployed onboard HMCS *Toronto* as Commanding Officer for Op REASSURANCE in 2014-2015. He has also served in staff positions at Maritime Pacific and Canadian Fleet Atlantic Headquarters, in Naval Force Development, and as the Chief of Staff for CRCN. RAdm Armstrong is a graduate of the Canadian Forces College Joint Command and Staff Program and the National Security Program. He holds an MA in Defence Studies and a MA in Public Administration, both from RMC.



Captain (N) Gord Noseworthy

Captain (N) Gord Noseworthy currently serves as Deputy Commander of Canadian Fleet Atlantic. A Naval Officer since 1998, he was formerly Commanding Officer of HMCS *St. John's*, including during its deployments to the Caribbean in 2017 as part of Operation RENAISSANCE to provide humanitarian support in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as to the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and northern Atlantic Ocean in 2018 as part of Operation REASSURANCE.



Captain (N) Rob Watt

Captain (N) R.J. Watt is Director of Naval Strategy for the RCN. Having joined the CAF in 1986, he served as a Submarine Officer and Clearance Diving Officer before spending four years with the Royal Navy on an exchange diving position. His duties thereafter saw him acting as Commanding Officer of Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific), deploying to Afghanistan for ISAF counter-IED network operations, returning to the Fleet in 2014 to command HMCS *Iroquois*, and serving three years as Chief of Staff of UNCMAC in South Korea, monitoring the Demilitarized Zone. Following a tenure as Canadian Defence Attaché in Tokyo, he returned to Canada in 2025 to assume his current duties.



Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman

Vice-Admiral (Ret'd) Mark Norman retired from the RCN in August 2019 after over 39 years of service. His military career has seen him serve at sea domestically and internationally and command a warship, the Canadian Atlantic Fleet, and ultimately the Navy itself. He also has extensive experience in a variety of appointments in training and educating sailors, leading operations, strategic planning, and managing major procurement projects. Since retirement, he has been a Champion for the NAVALIS Foundation (formerly the Royal Canadian Benevolent Fund), the Senior Defence Strategist at Samuel Associates, and Director at Genoa Designs. He also contributes frequently to the important debate about security and defence issues in Canada as both a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a member of the Conference of Defence Associations Board.

Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Brian Santarpia



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Brian Santarpia is a retired naval officer who served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 37 years. During his career, he held a series of appointments, including command of HMCS *St. John's*, Sea Training Atlantic, CFB Halifax, Combined Task Force 150 in Bahrain, and Maritime Forces Atlantic. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Royal Roads University, a Master of Defence Studies from the Royal Military College, and a Master of International Affairs from King's College London. Since retiring from the Navy, he has focused on mentorship, working at the RCN's Navigation and Bridge Simulator in Victoria and now as the Exercise Coordinator for the RCN's Distributed Mission Operations Centre. He is a member of the Board of Directors of COVE, the Board of Governors of Nova Scotia Community College, and the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Naval Review*.

Captain (N) (Ret'd) Norman Jolin



Captain (N) (Ret'd) Norman Jolin is an associate consultant with CFN Consultants, specializing in naval and maritime issues. Prior to joining CFN, he provided advice on Canadian defence procurement in the private sector, following a 37-year career in the RCN that saw him serving across the spectrum of maritime operations. Much of his career involved service at sea in both ships and submarines, as well as commanding a squadron of minor warships and, later, HMCS *Montréal*. Thereafter, he served as a member of the Directing Staff at the Canadian Forces College, Branch Head for exercises at NATO's Allied Command Transformation Naval Adviser to the United Kingdom, Defence Attaché to Denmark, and a member of NATO's International Military Staff in Brussels.

James Bond



James Bond joined Davie in November 2025 as Director of the Icebreaker Centre of Excellence. With over 30 years of involvement in the marine and offshore industries, his career has focused especially on the areas of structural analysis and design, as well as regulatory oversight and rules development. He previously served as Marine Manager – Americas for Intelligent Engineering (Canada) Limited and assumed various Project Manager roles with the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), the most recent of which was as Director of Polar Research and Government Business Development in Ottawa. Bond was involved in the team that wrote the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Polar Class Rules, served as a representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Working Group that wrote the IMO Polar Code, chaired the IACS Expert Group on Polar Code Implementation, and works with the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group.

Paul Chamberlain



Paul Chamberlain worked for the Government of Canada for over 15 years in various defence, intelligence, and security positions, spending much of his career in Defence Policy in the Department of National Defence – including serving as the first civilian Policy Advisor to the Commander of the RCN. Since then, he has been a Visiting Research Fellow at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) and a Research Fellow for Indo-Pacific Sea Power at the Yokosuka Council on Asia Pacific Studies (YCAPS). He is currently a PhD candidate at the Australian National University, in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, examining the topic of Sea Power as Statecraft in the Contemporary Indo-Pacific.

Dr. Kristen Csenkey



Dr. Kristen Csenkey is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government and the Canadian Maritime Security Network, where she researches quantum technology governance. She holds fellowship positions with the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. She has published or has forthcoming articles in the *International Journal*, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, *Canadian Military Journal*, and *Canadian Naval Review*.

Melanie Devaux



Over the course of her 21-year career at Cellula Robotics Ltd., Melanie Devaux has been a mechanical engineer and project manager. She now serves as Business Development Manager, Defence.

Dr. Richard Gimblett



Dr. Richard Gimblett was the Command Historian of the Royal Canadian Navy from 2006–18. His previous uniformed service (1975–2001) as a surface warfare officer included operations in the Persian Gulf during the war of 1991, following which he co-authored the official account of Canadian participation. He was on the team that developed *Leadmark: The Navy's Strategy for 2020*, was a contributing author to the official histories of the RCN, and edited a pair of commemorative volumes for the Centennial in 2010. His most recent book (with Karl Gagnon) is the award-winning *Guardians of the North: Canadian Warships and Maritime Aircraft, 1910–2025*.

Dr. Rob Huebert



Dr. Rob Huebert is Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He also is the director of the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies and co-director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network. He was appointed as a member to the Canadian Polar Commission (now renamed Canada Polar Knowledge) for a term lasting from 2010 to 2015. He is a senior fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute; a fellow with the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies; a research fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute; and a senior fellow with the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

Simon Hughes



Simon Hughes served for 30 years in the RCN, becoming Director Maritime Personnel 3 – Organization/Establishment & Occupation Management and subsequently Director Maritime Personnel 5 – Strategic Future Fleet Establishment & Crewing. Since 2012, he has been involved in the defence industry as a business development professional, serving first as Business Development Manager, Naval Programs, at Thales Canada Defence & Security before moving to Lockheed Martin in 2015.

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse



Dr. Adam Lajeunesse is Associate Professor and Chair of the Public Policy and Governance program at St. Francis Xavier University. He is the Arctic and Maritime Security Chair at the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, a Fulbright Scholar with the Fulbright Arctic Initiative, and Director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network. A specialist in Canadian and maritime sovereignty, security, and circumpolar geopolitics, he is the author of *Lock, Stock and Icebergs: A History of Canada's Arctic Maritime Sovereignty*, the editor of the *Arctic Operational Histories* series, and an editorial board member of the *Canadian Naval Review*, the *Canadian Military Journal*, *Arctic*, and the *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Dr. Suzanne Lalonde



Dr. Suzanne Lalonde is Professor of International Law and the Law of the Sea at the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Law, as well as Network Co-Lead for the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network. A specialist on the Law of the Sea, with a particular focus on the Arctic, she has been involved in several research projects examining the legal ramifications of an Arctic region that is becoming ever more accessible. Dr. Lalonde has regularly engaged in the Arctic Security Working Group's biannual meetings, participated in Canadian Forces operations in the North, advised the Government of Nunavut, and appeared before parliamentary committees.

Joachim Bildt



Joachim has been with the German Navy for 12 years, sailing on board of Fast Patrol Boats (including CO) in the Baltic and the North Sea, very often exercising with the Royal Norwegian and Danish Navies. His second business life he spent in global project financing, focusing on transactions in the natural resources sector worldwide. In 2008 Joachim joined TKMS in London/UK before moving to Hamburg in 2012 and taking over the responsibility for Business Development at TKMS in The Americas and Europe. That triggered his strong involvement in the 212CD Project for Germany and Norway, which created the foundation for his role as Key Account Manager Canadian Patrol Submarine Project (CPSP) at TKMS Canada in Ottawa.

Dr. Marc Milner



Dr. Marc Milner is Professor Emeritus at UNB, where he served as Director of the Military and Strategic Studies Program, Chair of the History Department, and Director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society. In 2016, he was awarded the Admiral's Medal for his contributions to Canada's maritime awareness, and he has also been appointed an Honorary Colonel in the RCAF. Dr. Milner is best known for his work on naval history, including *North Atlantic Run*, *The U-Boat Hunters*, *Canada's Navy: The First Century*, and *Battle of the Atlantic*.

Dr. David Perry



Dr. David Perry is President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, host of its Defence Deconstructed podcast, and Co-Director of Triple Helix. Previously the Senior Security and Defence Analyst of the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and Deputy Director of Dalhousie University's Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, he has authored many publications on defence budgeting, transformation, and procurement. In addition to being a columnist for the *Canadian Naval Review*, he is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies and a research fellow of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development at Dalhousie University. He is also a columnist for the Canadian Naval Review.

Richard Shimooka



Richard Shimooka is a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and a contributing columnist for thehub.ca. Formerly a senior fellow at the Defence Management Studies Programme at Queen's University and a research fellow at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute, he writes on an array of topics, including Canadian and American foreign and defence policy, modern airpower, and defence procurement. He co-authored *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: The Influence of External Studies and Reports on National Defence Policy*, has published multiple journal articles and chapters, and is a frequent writer in the media on security and defence issues.

Dr. Sergey Sukhankin



Dr. Sergey Sukhankin is a Senior Fellow at the Jamestown Foundation and the Saratoga Foundation, both based in Washington, D.C. His research interests include Kaliningrad and the Baltic Sea region, as well as various dimensions of Russia's Arctic policies. His work focuses particularly on geoeconomic issues, including the Northern Sea Route and oil and LNG projects in the Arctic region. Dr. Sukhankin has consulted for or provided briefings to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the European Parliament. His project examining the activities of Russian private military companies (PMCs), War by Other Means, informed a United Nations General Assembly report entitled Use of Mercenaries as a Means of Violating Human Rights and Impeding the Exercise of the Right of Peoples to Self-Determination. He is also a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Canadian Maritime Security Network and a member of the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN).

Kate Todd



Kate E. Todd is a fellow at the Canadian Maritime Security Network, Canadian Global Affairs Institute, Arctic360 and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network and sits on the editorial board of the Canadian Naval Review. She also serves as a defence policy analyst and officer in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve. Kate regularly publishes analyses on naval strategy, uncrewed systems integration, Arctic infrastructure, and future fleet design.

Organizers & Sponsors

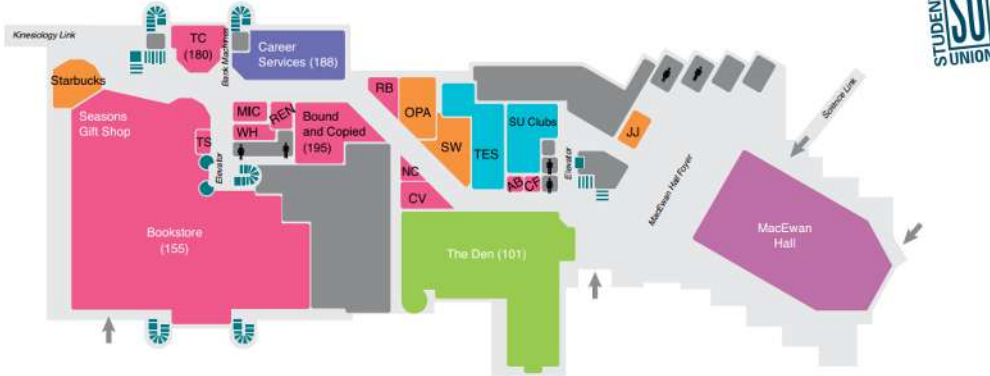


The Canadian Maritime Security Network (CMSN) is a dispersed research organization, tying together Canadian and international academic and professional organizations engaged in maritime security research.

Funded by the MINDS program (Department of National Defence), its purpose is to provide the Government of Canada with timely and relevant policy advice while advancing public understanding of maritime security issues. CMSN is managed by the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government at St. Francis Xavier University and the Centre for Military, Security and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary.



Lower Level



Lower Level			
Jugo Juice	JJ	Renert Centre	REN
Opa	OPA	Royal Bank	RB
Starbucks		Seasons Gift Shop	SG
Subway	SW	Tech Stop	TS
The Den		Travel Cuts	TC
Students' Union Clubs		Microstore	MIC
That Empty Space	TES	Witchcraft Hairstyling	WH
Career Services			
MacEwan Hall	MH	Third Level (East)	
Atomic Body Jewelry	AB	CJSW	
Bookstore		Gauntlet	
Bound and Copied	B&C	Multi-Faith Chapel and Prayer Room	MFCP
Campus Florist	CF	NUTV	
Campus Vision	CV	MacEwan Ballroom	
Nickel Copiers	NC	MacEwan Conference and Event Centre	
		Office	MCEC

Legend

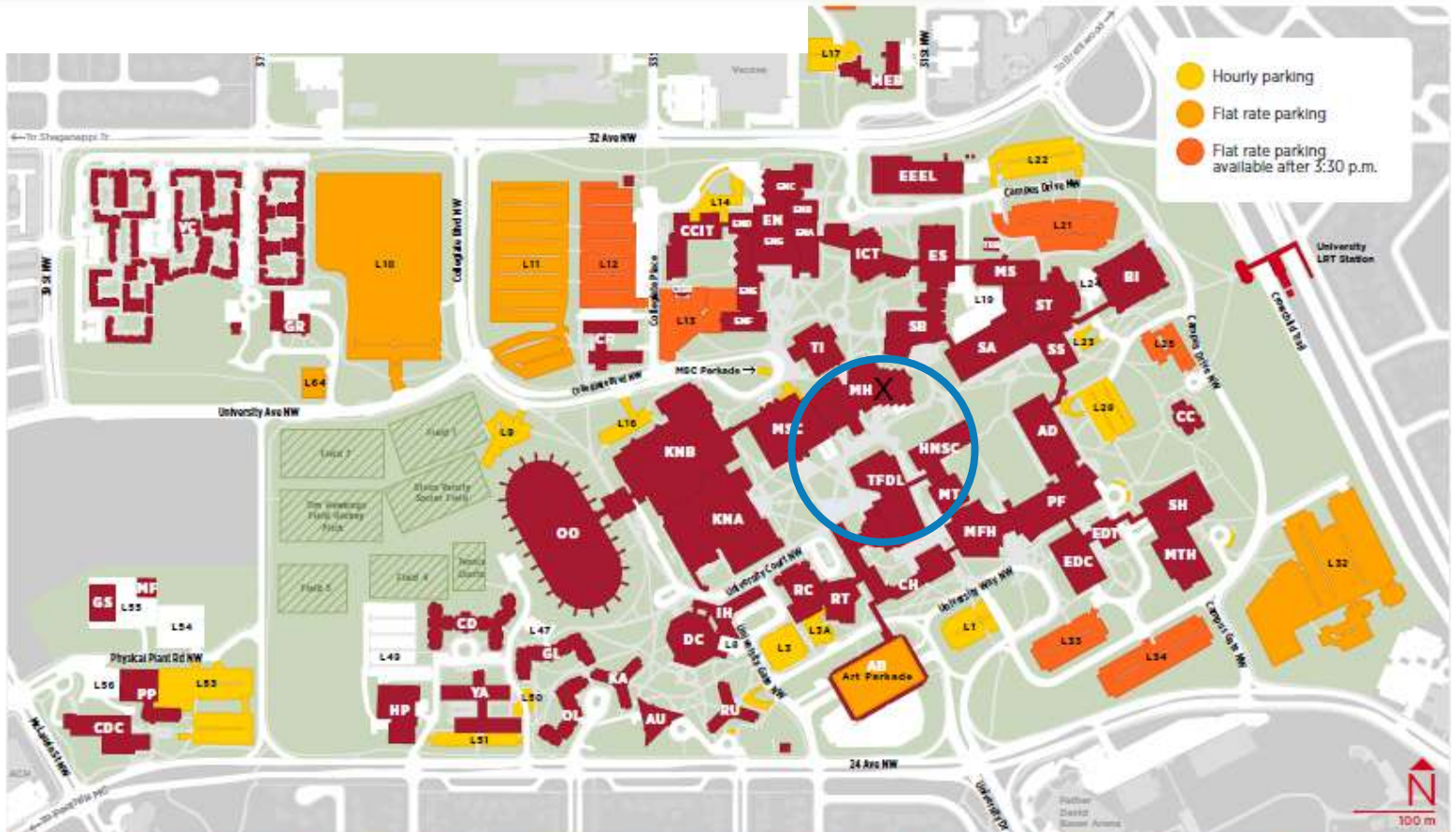


Third Floor (East)

Access by the stairs or elevator at the east end of the building.



my MacHall MacEwan Student Centre



AB	Art Building & Parkade	CH	Cragie Hall Blocks C-G (University Theatre)	ES	Earth Sciences	KNA	Kinesiology Block A	MTH	Mathison Hall	SH	Sourfield Hall
AD	Administration	CR	Crowsnest Hall	GL	Glacier Hall	KNB	Kinesiology Block B	OL	Olympus Hall	SS	Social Sciences
AU	Aurora Hall	CSH	Genovus Solar Solar House	GR	Grounds Building	MEB	Suncor Building (Mechanical Engineering)	OO	Olympic Oval	ST	Science Theatres
BI	Biological Sciences	DC	Dining Centre	GS	General Services Building	MFH	Murray Fraser Hall	PF	Professional Facilities	TFOL	Taylor Family Digital Library
CC	Child Care Centre	EDC	Education Classrooms	HNCS	Hunter Student Commons	MT	MacEwan Hall	PP	Physical Plant	TI	Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning
CCIT	Calgary Centre for Innovative Technology	EDT	Education Tower	HP	Heating Plant	MS	Mathematical Sciences	RC	Rozsa Centre	TRB	Trailer B
CD	Cascade Hall	EEEL	Energy Environment	IC	Information & Communications Technology	MSC	MacEwan Student Centre	RT	Reeve Theatre	VC	Varsity Courts
CDC	Child Development Centre		Experiential Learning	IH	International House	NT	MacKimmie Tower	RU	Rundie Hall	YA	Yamnuska Hall
			Schulich School of Engineering	KA	Kananaskis Hall			SA	Science A		
								SB	Science B		