

Northern Maritime Security

Threats In, To, and Through the Arctic and North Atlantic

From the European High North, across the North Atlantic, and through North America, Canada and its allies are improving their ability to detect, deter, and defend against new and evolving threats in, to, and through these vast regions.

This in-depth workshop will examine these evolving maritime security threats with the aim of better understanding the underlying threat drivers, the priorities of the various actors, and opportunities for cooperation between Canada and its allies.

Participants will include academics, experts, and practitioners from across the circumpolar North.

Ottawa

Canadian Museum of Nature

November 25, 2025



Workshop Website

www.CMSN.ca/NorthernMaritime

For more information or to RSVP contact

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The Arctic Ocean renders the circumpolar north a fundamentally maritime environment, bordered by the territories of the Arctic states. Defence here is not solely a matter of sea power; it necessarily spans aerospace, cyber, and other domains — requiring a genuinely pan-domain approach.

Historically, the North American Arctic was the shortest vector for intercontinental weapons during the Cold War. The European Arctic and the North Atlantic have likewise long been vital sea lines connecting the two continents in both peace and war. Today, rising adversary ambitions and the ability to project power globally are merging the strategic dynamics of the Arctic and the North Pacific.

Across these framings, the Arctic is a zone in which Allies must detect, deter, and defend against threats *In, To, and Through* the region. These threat dynamics are changing rapidly, driven by technological innovation, intensifying strategic competition, and the accelerating effects of climate change.

As the Royal Canadian Navy's Arctic & Northern Strategic Framework notes: "The Arctic physical and strategic environment is

rapidly changing, raising the importance of the region for Canada's security and defence." The same is true for all Arctic Allies.

This one-day workshop convenes experts from Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (Denmark, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland), Iceland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States to examine and map threats *In, To, and Through* the Arctic maritime environment. Speakers will interrogate a specific aspect of these threats within their areas of expertise. Post-presentation discussions will be governed by the Chatham House Rule.

To guide discussion, consider questions such as:

- How can Allies improve their defence and security contributions to the Euro-Atlantic region in a meaningful and sustainable way?
- How do Allied roles, involvement, and influence vary across the Arctic and the North Atlantic?
- Ultimately, how can Allies better deter conflict and address threats in the Arctic within the context of strategic competition and climate change?



Workshop Agenda:

08:30-09:00 | Registration & Breakfast

09:00-09:15 | Welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Adam Lajeunesse (Network Director - CMSN) and Dr. Suzanne Lalonde (NAADSN Co-Lead), and Commander Kasper Flinker Ladegaard, Danish Defence Attaché

09:20-10:30 | Panel One: The European High North - Moderated by Serafima Andreeva (Researcher, Fridtjof Nansen Institute)

- 09:20-09:30 - Dr. Kari Roberts, Mount Royal University
- 09:30-09:40 - Dr. Paal Sigurd Hilde, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies at the Norwegian Defence University College
- 09:40-09:50 - Dr. Jon Rahbek-Clemmensen (TBC)
- 09:50-10:00 - Dr. Sergey Sukhankin, Senior Fellow at the Jamestown Foundation
- 10:00-10:10 - Dr. Marc Lanteigne, Arctic University of Norway

10:10-10:30 - DISCUSSION

10:30-10:45 – Morning Break

10:50-12:00 | Panel Two: Arctic Approaches - Moderated by Commander Kasper Flinker Ladegaard, Danish Defence Attaché

- 10:50-11:00 – Dr. Adam Lajeunesse (Coordinator of the Public Policy and Governance Program at St. Francis Xavier University)
- 11:00-11:10 – Commander Caroline Hoefsmit (NATO MARCOM) (TBC)
- 11:10-11:20 – Major-General CA (Chris) McKenna, 1 Canadian Air Division / Canadian NORAD Region Commander
- 11:20-11:30 – RAdm (Ret'd) Brian Santarpia (Royal Canadian Navy)
- 11:30-11:40 – Dr. Rob Huebert, Director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies

11:40-12:00 – DISCUSSION

12:00-13:00 – Lunch - Introduction of Keynotes by Dr. Suzanne Lalonde

12:00- 12:30 – Keynote – Jacob Isbosethsen, Head of Greenland's Representation in the USA

12:30- 13:00 – Keynote – Ambassador Nikolaj Harris – Embassy of Denmark in Canada

13:00-14:10 | Panel Three: The North American Arctic – Moderated by Kate Todd (CMSN Advisor and NAADSN Fellow)

- 13:00-13:10 – BGen Dan Rivière, Commander of JTFN
- 13:20-13:20 – Dr. Rasmus Leander Nielsen, Head of Nasiffik
- 13:20-13:30 – Dr. Jackie Dawson (TBC)
- 13:30-13:40 – The Honourable Ranj Pillai, former Premier of Yukon
- 13:40-13:50 – Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer

13:50-14:10 – DISCUSSION

14:10-14:25 – Afternoon Break

14:25-15:35 | Panel Four: Coast Guard Cooperation – Moderated by Dr. Suzanne Lalonde (NAADSN Co-Lead)

- 14:25-14:35 – Dr. Lawson W. Brigham, USCG (Ret'd)
- 14:35-14:45 – Neil O'Rourke, Director General Canadian Coast Guard
- 14:45-14:55 – Dr. Pete Kikkert, St. Francis Xavier University (TBC)
- 14:55-15:05 – Jeremy MacDonald, Superintendent of Security for Arctic Region, CCG (TBC)
- 15:05-15:15 – Captain William Woityra, USCG

15:15-15:35 – DISCUSSION

15:35-15:45 – Closing Remarks Dr. Kari Roberts and Commander Kasper Flinker Ladegaard

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Keynotes

Jacob Isbosethsen, Head of the Greenland Representation in Washington D.C.

Jacob Isbosethsen is a Greenlandic diplomat and senior civil servant. On July 7 2025, Isbosethsen became the Head of Greenland's Representation in Washington, D.C. Prior to this, he served as Head of the Greenland Representation in Beijing for four years.



Isbosethsen has worked for the Government of Greenland for more than 15 years. He began his career in the Department of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, where he contributed to policy development in one of Greenland's most significant export sectors.

From 2011 to 2013, Isbosethsen was posted to Brussels as Embassy Secretary at Greenland's Representation to the European Union, where he worked on Arctic cooperation and trade policy. Upon returning to Nuuk, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, first as a Special Consultant and later as Head of Division.

In 2018, Isbosethsen was appointed as the first Head of Greenland's Representation in Reykjavik, Iceland. His work focused on establishing the new representation and strengthening cooperation between Greenland and Iceland in fisheries, education, tourism, and energy.

From November 2021 to June 2025, he led Greenland's Representation in Beijing. His responsibilities included promoting trade, investment, and cultural relations between Greenland and China, particularly within the seafood and fisheries industries.

He holds a Master of Laws degree from Aarhus University in Denmark.

Keynotes

Nikolaj Harris, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Royal Danish Embassy, Ottawa



Ambassador Nikolaj Harris joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in 2001 after having worked for the Danish Institute for Human Rights from 2000-01 mainly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has broad headquarter experience, including as Head of Section in the Department for Southern Africa, Department for Russia and the Balkan Countries as well as in the Department for Security Policy.

Ambassador Harris has spent half of his career at Danish missions abroad; 2004-07 as Deputy Head of Mission in Lithuania and 2009-13 as Deputy Head of Mission in Turkey. In 2013 he was appointed Deputy Director for the Department for the Middle East and North Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen where he served – with a short

break as Chargé d'affaires at the Danish Embassy in Cairo for 6 months in 2016 - until he was appointed Ambassador to Morocco and Mauritania in August 2018. In August 2021 he returned to Copenhagen and took up the position of Director for Consular Affairs and Crisis Management which he held until November 2024. December 2024 he was appointed Ambassador to Canada.

Ambassador Harris obtained a Master in Contemporary History and Political Science from the University of Copenhagen in 2000. He took selected modules of the Master in Public Governance programme at the Copenhagen Business School and Copenhagen University in 2014-15 and in 2022-23 he concluded the programme Leadership in Public Governance. He speaks English, German, French and Russian (basic level).

Ambassador Harris was born in June 1972, he is married and has three adult children.

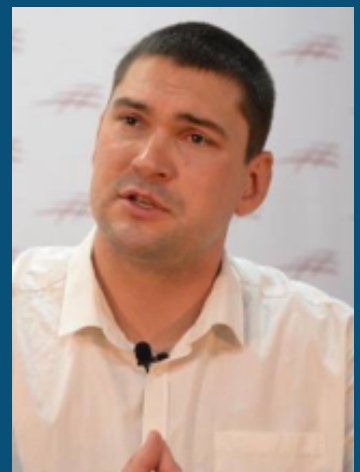
Speakers

Dr. Kari Roberts joined the Policy Studies Department in 2009. She received her BA (Hons) and MA in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba and her PhD in Political Science from the University of Calgary in 2004. Dr. Roberts' research concerns Russian foreign policy toward the United States specifically and the West more broadly. She is specifically focused on the influences of structure and agency on foreign policy making in Russia, notably the powerful presidency and how this influences relations with the United States primarily, but also Russia's interests in the Arctic. Dr. Roberts teaches introductory courses in International Relations and Comparative Politics, as well as senior level courses in American Government and Politics, International Organizations and Foreign Policies of the Major Powers.



Dr. Paal Hilde is Associate Professor and Head of Section for Norwegian Security Policy at the Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies (IFS). Dr. Hilde is also a senior member of atlantic-community.org. His research interests include Norwegian security and defense policy, NATO, the High North (the Barents region and international relations in Arctic Europe), Russia and Central Europe. Moreover, he takes part in the research project "Geopolitics in the High North". Dr. Hilde holds Master degree in Russian and East European Studies and PhD in Politics from the University of Oxford (St. Antony's College). Prior to joining IFS, he worked for the Department for Security Policy at the Norwegian Ministry of Defense.

Dr. Sergey Sukhankin is a senior fellow at the Jamestown Foundation and the Saratoga Foundation (both in Washington, DC) and a fellow at the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN). He specializes on Russian Arctic, natural resources and the Sino-Russian relations in the Far East. Currently, he is writing a book titled "The Creeping Sinicization of Russia". He is teaching International Business at MacEwan School of Business and Economics at the University of Alberta.





Dr. Marc Lanteigne is a Professor of Political Science at UiT: The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, specialising in Chinese and East Asian politics and international relations, as well as Asia-Pacific security and cooperation. He also specialises in the politics and security of the Polar Regions, including Chinese and East Asian diplomacy in the Arctic and via the Antarctic Treaty System.

Dr Lanteigne has previously taught in Canada, China, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and has researched throughout the Arctic region, as well as on Antarctica politics and legal issues in Argentina, Australia and NZ. He has written numerous articles on Chinese domestic and international politics, including regarding Polar diplomacy. He is an adjunct researcher at the Centre for Arctic Studies at the University of Iceland, Reykjavík, and a member of the board of the UK-based Polar Research and Policy Initiative (PRPI).

Dr. Adam Lajeunesse is an 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*, and an editorial board member of the *Canadian Naval Review*, the *Canadian Military Journal*, *Arctic*, and the *American Review of Canadian Studies*.



Director General Neil O'Rourke is Director General of Fleet and Maritime Services with the CCG. Before assuming leadership of this directorate in April 2025, he held several senior leadership roles in the CCG, as Director of Integrated Logistic Support, Senior Director of Safe Shipping and Economic Intelligence, the first Assistant Commissioner of the Arctic Region, and Director General of Integrated Technical Services. He has served as a councillor with the International Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authority on behalf of Canada and represented the nation as Chair of the Arctic Coast Guard Forum Experts Committee.



Major-General (MGen) McKenna joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1994, initially as an Army Reservist, and then attended the Royal Military College of Canada receiving his degree in Chemical and Materials Engineering in 1999. He also holds a Master's degree in Defence Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (2013).

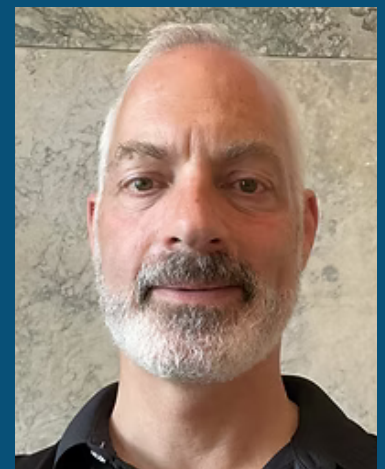
MGen McKenna earned his RCAF Pilot wings in 2002 and served as a Rotary Wing Tactical Aviation and Special Operations Aviation pilot in the RCAF. He has commanded at the Flight, Squadron, Wing, and Task Force level and has served in a variety of command and staff positions including postings in CANSOFCOM units, RCAF HQ and in the Canadian Joint Operations Command HQ.

MGen McKenna deployed twice to Bosnia in 2003/04 as part of NATO's Stabilization Force, and twice to Afghanistan; with CANSOFCOM in 2005/06 and as Officer Commanding Chinook in 2010/11, flying in support of Canada's combat mission. In 2018/19, he deployed to Africa as the Commander of Canada's Air Task Force in Mali as part of the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali .

MGen McKenna commanded 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron from 2014 to 2016 flying the CH147F Chinook and he commanded 1 Wing, the RCAF's Tactical Aviation Wing, from 2020 to 2021. From 2021 to 2024, he served as the RCAF's Director General of Air and Space Force Development, working to set the requirements and coordinate the acquisition for several key new RCAF capabilities such as the CC330 Husky MRTT, the P8A Poseidon, and the MQ9B RPAS.

MGen McKenna has over 2600 flying hours in both Special Operations and conventional rotary wing aircraft. He is a graduate of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, the Joint Command and Staff Programme the National Security Programme, and he has earned US Army Senior Aviator Wings. MGen McKenna is an Officer of the Order of Military Merit and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Cross, and the Meritorious Service Medal. MGen McKenna was promoted to his current rank in 2024. He is married to a retired Canadian Army Health Services Officer, and they have two lovely young girls.

RAdm (ret'd) Brian Santarpia served in the RCN for 37 years. He held a series of appointments during his career, including command of HMCS *St. John's*, Sea Training Atlantic, CFB Halifax, Combined Task Force 150 in Bahrain, and Maritime Forces Atlantic. His staff appointments included Director General Navy Strategic Readiness, Director General Plans in the Strategic Joint Staff, and Chief of Staff of Canada's Joint Operations Command. After retiring from the Navy, he has focused on mentorship, working at the RCN's Navigation and Bridge Simulator in Victoria and now as Exercise Coordinator for the RCN's Distributed Mission Operations Centre.





Brigadier-General Dan Rivière is native from Saint-Michel des Saints, Québec. Prior to assuming duties as Commander Joint Task Force North, his key command appointments include Commanding Officer of 5e Bataillon des services in Valcartier Québec, Commanding Officer of the Joint Task Force Support Element in Haiti, and Commander of Canadian Forces Base Borden and Military Personnel Generation Training Group.

His key staff assignments include Deputy Commanding Officer of the National Support Element in Kandahar Afghanistan, Directing Staff at the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, Director Ammunition Program Restructure Project, Director of Service Delivery Conflict and Complaint Management Program, Deputy Task Force Commander/Director of Operations Support in Jerusalem, and Director of Training Modernization. Other contributions include expeditionary deployments to Haiti and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and domestically, the Red River Flood (Op ASSISTANCE) and the Montreal's Ice Storm. Brigadier-General Rivière completed a degree in administration from Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean, a post graduate program in project management, a Master in Defence Studies, and a Master in Strategic Studies (with high distinction). He also holds the 'Project Management Professional' designation.



Dr. Nielsen is Head of Nasiffik (Centre for Foreign & Security Policy) and Associate Professor at the Department of Arctic Social Science and Economics, Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland). He holds a PhD from the University of Southern Denmark and has previously worked as editor-in-chief at an online magazine and as assistant lecturer at the University of Copenhagen. His main research interests include Greenlandic foreign policy, Arctic security and cooperation, and International Relations and EU-studies. Dr. Nielsen is a widely used expert and commentator on Greenlandic and Arctic Affairs.

Rob Huebert is a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary, and the director of the Centre for Military Security and Strategic Studies. He is also a fellow with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and the Macdonald Laurier Institute and co-Director of the Canadian Maritime Security Network.





Former Premier of the Yukon. Ranj Pillai was first elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 2016 and was appointed as Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Minister of Economic Development; and Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation.

He was elected for a second term in April 2021 and served as the Minister of Economic Development; Minister of Tourism and Culture; and the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation and Yukon Lottery Commission. In addition to his duties as Premier, he currently

serves as Minister of the Executive Council Office; Minister of Economic Development; and Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation.

During his time in office, Pillai has worked hard to advance a strong and diverse Yukon economy. He has focused on building an ecosystem to support entrepreneurs across all sectors while supporting the Yukon's vibrant resource sector which includes three operating mines. Pillai was recognized for this work as the recipient of the North Startup Canada 2019 Regional Award for Entrepreneur Promotion.

Pillai is a trusted decision maker and tireless community advocate who has contributed to numerous Yukon businesses, governments, schools and not-for-profits. He also co-chaired the 2020 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference (EMMC) alongside the Government of Canada's

Capt William Woityra is the incoming US Coast Guard Attaché in Ottawa and 2025 Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow in Canada with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. A career icebreaker sailor with the USCG, he was Executive Officer on USCGC Thunder Bay, Ice Operations Officer for the USCG International Ice Patrol, Commanding Officer of USCGC Neah Bay, Coast Guard Attaché to Malta, and Operations Officer on USCGC Healy during five Arctic research missions, including to the North Pole in 2015. Capt Woityra established icebreaking policy and priorities as Program Manager for Coast Guard icebreaking, commanded USCGC Polar Star as it set navigational records in the Arctic and Antarctic, and was Director for Oceania Policy at the US Indo-Pacific Command from 2022-24.





Dr. Whitney Lackenbauer is the Network Lead for the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network (NAADSN), Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in the Study of the Canadian North, and Professor, School for the Study of Canada, Trent University one of Canada's leading experts on Arctic security, history, and contemporary policy. He has received a long list of honours, awards, and grants for his scholarship. He has (co-)written or (co-)edited more than sixty books and more than one hundred academic articles and book chapters. Dr. Lackenbauer was the 2017-18 Killam Visiting Scholar at the University of Calgary, a

Fulbright Fellow at the School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University in 2010, and a Canadian International Council Research Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in 2008-09. He co-led the Emerging Arctic Security Environment project through ArcticNet (2010-15) and was co-chair of the Munk School-Gordon Foundation Arctic Peoples and Security program (2011-13). He was 2018 Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Centre for National Security Studies (CNSS) at Canadian Forces College and became Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in the Study of the Canadian North at Trent University in July 2018. In recognition of his work with Indigenous peoples and the military in Canada's North, he was made the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group in fall 2014.

Dr. Lawson W. Brigham is Distinguished Professor of Geography and Arctic Policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Senior Fellow at the Institute of the North. He is currently a Commissioner on the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission and a member of the U.S. Delegation to the International Maritime Organization in London. During 2005-2009 he was chair of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and Vice Chair of the Council's working group on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment. He was a career U.S. Coast Guard officer serving from 1970-95 and retiring with the rank of Captain. He commanded four Coast Guard cutters, including the icebreaker Polar Sea; he also served as Chief of Strategic Planning at Coast Guard Headquarters. He has participated in more than 15 Arctic and Antarctic expeditions, and during summer 1994 Polar Sea crossed the central Arctic Ocean for science with the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Louis S. St-Laurent.



Dr. Brigham has been a research fellow at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a faculty member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School, and Alaska Office Director of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. He is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (B.S.), a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, and holds graduate degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (M.S.) and the University of Cambridge (MPhil and Ph.D). His research interests have focused on the Russian maritime Arctic, marine transportation, Arctic futures, remote sensing of sea ice, and polar geopolitics. He was named the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and in 2013 was selected a member of the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research.

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Getting to the Museum

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